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Supreme Soviet Resolution on Mass Media Adopted

ITAR-TASS reports that Supreme Soviet hearings on the media draft resolution on 17 July debated and voted down a "proposal to create councils of observers for state TV and radio companies." The legislature did, however, adopt a resolution that changes the status of the newspaper IZVESTIYA. According to ITAR-TASS, it is to become "a daily of the Russian parliament." The Justice Ministry was instructed to change the newspaper's registration in line with the resolution. Moscow TV says that "unexpectedly, but quickly," the parliament "voted for transferring IZVESTIYA to the subordination of the Supreme Soviet." "Democracy is continuing", notes the TV.

INTERFAX reports that a resolution was also adopted that "envisages introduction of changes to the decree 'On mass media' in order to limit participation of state institutions of power and control in establishing mass media." Finally, ITAR-TASS quotes President Yeltsin's press secretary: "'As a guarantee of the Constitution and of the people's democratic gains, the president of Russia will undertake all the necessary measures in the framework of the Constitution and Law of the Press to protect the mass news media.'"

New Russian Central Bank Chairman Appointed

ITAR-TASS reports that on 17 July Viktor Gerashchenko was appointed chairman of the Central Bank of Russia. "He replaced Georgiy Matyukhin who resigned for health reasons." In an "exclusive interview" with INTERFAX, Gerashchenko "sharply criticized the Central Bank's credit and monetary policies." He said that the bank "cannot hand its reponsibility for the distribution of resources over to the government." He also noted that making the ruble convertible "was yet an unattainable goal." "'I do not think that games with the fine notion of convertibility are timely now'", he said.

Moldova, Russia Reach Agreement on Dniester

ITAR-TASS reports that Russian and Dniester delegations on 18 July in Tiraspol approved a draft agreement "on the principles of a peace settlement in Dniester". INTERFAX reports that under the agreement, both sides of the conflict, Russia and Moldova, "will take measures...for a complete ceasefire and refrain from any hostilities." A joint control commission is to be set up in Bendery, and "a protocol will define the numbers, status, and conditions of the military contingents in the zone."

Byelarus Nuclear Weapons Stance Expressed

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports on a ZVYAZDA interview with Byelarusian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Petr Chaus, in which he expressed his views on a nuclear-free status for Byelarus. According to the article, Chaus confirmed that "the republic will strive to become a neutral and nuclear-free state and that it does not intend to join any military blocs or alliances." At the same time, however, he stated that "he is not sure that Byelarus can acquire nuclear-free status within seven years." "'To my mind,' the general said, 'in the interests of the republic, we must not be hasty in the withdrawal of strategic nuclear missiles. The presence of such a powerful weapon in our country will at first help Byelarus to establish itself. The whole world treats us as a nuclear power.... Another reason why we must not be in a hurry to withdraw the strategic nuclear weapons is that the development of events in the CIS in the present situation is simply unpredictable." '

Dismissal of Ukrainian Official Denied

Kiev International reports that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service "refuted facts" provided by POSTFACTUM which reported that President Leonid Kravchuk dismissed Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov and Economy Minister Vladimir Lanovoyy. The ministry press service was "authorized to report that Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov was never dismissed from his present position and continues to perform his duties."

Official Views Talks on Global Defense System

LD1707145792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1432 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The creation of a global defence system which Russia and the United States have agreed upon does not call for amendments in the ABM Treaty, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov said at a briefing on Friday [17 July].

Russia believes the treaty has not lost its importance and acts as the "basis of strategic stability" in conditions of radical reduction of strategic offensive arms, he stressed.

But the U.S. side has a different approach to the matter, however, it did not prevent the Russian-U.S. delegations at talks on the global defence system to adopt "constructive decisions" which testify to a high level of mutual understanding between the two states, according to Berdennikov.

He was commenting on the first meeting of the Russian-U.S. group discussing the global defence system which took place in Moscow on July 13-14.

The results of the meeting became "a material confirmation" to the end of the cold war, he stressed.

It was agreed to create three working groups which will deal with practical aspects of the system. The first one will be in charge of its concept, the second one will deal with cooperation in the field of technologies, while the third one will solve the issues of non- proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery, according to Berdennikov.

The global defence system is not aimed against anyone concretely, it will protect the world community from "unexpected circumstances" he added.

Newspaper Sums Up GPALS Agreement Provisions

PM1607154192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Press Service: "On the Approaches to GPALS"]

[Text] Moscow and Washington have started implementing the recent understanding by the two countries' presidents on studying the possibilities for creating a Global Protection Against Limited Strikes [GPALS] system. High-level Russian and U.S. delegations held consultations 13 and 14 July in Moscow.

In a joint statement adopted on the results of the discussion, the sides noted the growing threat to the world community posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. They stressed the need for cooperation in order to find solutions to new tasks of ensuring security. These solutions may be found in the creation of a GPALS system.

Both sides believe that a basis for further work, which will be carried out by three working groups, has been created as a result of the discussions. One of the groups will examine the question of the structure, features, and functions of GPALS. At the same time the concept of global protection will be studied, and mutual relations between the basic elements of such a system will be analyzed. The working group on cooperation in the sphere of technology will examine possible research and development projects and the carrying out of experiments as well as other forms of technological cooperation which could assist in the implementation of GPALS. Finally, a working group for nonproliferation will assess trends in the sphere of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and arms delivery vehicles, and will study ways and means to avert such proliferation.

These groups should start work in the near future.

Dubna Nuclear Institute's Director Interviewed

PM1607150392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Jul 92

[Report by V. Lenskiy and V. Chernyatin from the Dubna Joint Nuclear Research Institute; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Lenskiy, over video of interview with new director of Dubna Joint Nuclear Research Institute] This is Professor Vladimir Kadyshevskiy, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a theoretical physicist of world repute. He is 55 years old, and 30 of these years were linked with the Joint Nuclear Research Institute. On becoming director of this institute, Vladimir Kadyshevskiy inherited a major international scientific center where scientists from 18 countries of Europe, Asia, America, and the CIS are working.

[V. Kadyshevskiy, director of Joint Nuclear Research Institute] Now, when there is talk of a brain drain, we are experiencing an influx of new talent. Very many scientists, even from countries which are not members of the Joint Institute, are coming to our institute. We have no brain-drain problem.

[Lenskiy] On the other hand, there is a mass of other problems. One of them is a shortage of funds. The institute engages in fundamental science which is always and everywhere funded from the state budget.

[Kadyshevskiy] This funding reflects the farsightedness of the leaders of the country in question because today's fundamental science is tomorrow's new equipment and new technology.

[Lenskiy] However, Vladimir Kadyshevskiy is not relying on budget funding alone.

[Kadyshevskiy] A vast intellectual potential is concentrated in our institute. It appears entirely logical and appropriate to capitalize this potential.

[Lenskiy] For this purpose the scientific center's new director is proposing to establish an international university where the Nuclear Institute specialists, scientists from all over the world, will deliver lectures to students from various countries.

[Kadyshevskiy] We have already achieved what people now consider to be the next stage in the development of relations—citizens of different countries living side by side and working together. [Video shows Kadyshevskiy outside the institute building; the interview is interspersed with shots of the institute's interior and scientific equipment.]

CIS Countries Prepare for Talks With PRC

OW1707142392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government has given a go ahead to draft agreements between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan for talks with China on border issues, troop cuts and confidence-building in the military area along their common border with that country.

Under the agreements, the four countries are to set up joint delegations which will replace government delegations of the former Soviet Union. Apart from representatives of the four countries, the delegations will also involve members of the inter-government committee for the protection of CIS borders, and the Chief Command of the Joint Commonwealth Forces.

The guidelines for negotiation drawn up on the basis of the agreed principles are subject to approval by each delegation within a month on presentation.

A joint fund is to be set up both in roubles and foreign exchange to cover the cost of negotiation, with each side's share being equal.

However, any of the four can walk out of a deal should it find that its supreme interests are being put under threat.

Moscow and Beijing are the venues of talks with China, but if need be, these can be held in Alma-Ata, Bishkek or Dushanbe.

Shaposhnikov Receives French Envoy 13 Jul

PM1507115792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by the CIS Joint Armed Forces Public Information Center: "At the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command"]

[Text] On 13 July Marshal of Aviation Ye.I. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, received Pierre Morel, French ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation.

Current problems of ensuring international security, the present phase in military organizational development, the development of the disarmament negotiating process, and the formation and functioning of CIS Joint Armed Forces structures, as well as other questions of mutual interest, were discussed.

A mutual desire to develop and intensify cooperation was reaffirmed.

The conversation was held in a frank, warm, and friendly atmosphere.

Europarliament Chief Favors CIS Cooperation

LD1807171992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0822 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalia Kirsanova]

[Text] London July 17 TASS—Cooperation with parliaments of the republics of the former Soviet Union and rendering support to these emergent democracies in Europe is one of the most important goals of the European Parliament in nearest future, ITAR-TASS was told by Chairman of the European Parliament Egon Klepsch, who is in the British capital on an official visit.

Klepsch said that he will soon visit Russia, Ukraine and Byelarus at the invitation of chairmen of their parliaments in order to find out how the Europarliament, which until recently maintained contacts primarily with Central European countries, can help legislatures of these republics in their activity.

As for Central European states, according to Klepsch, the European Parliament will ratify in September treaties with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary on association with the European Community. These agreements are regarded as a step towards full membership by these countries of the community. The association treaties with three Central European countries set an example for other states which said they would like to join the EC, he said.

Commentary Assesses 'Fundamentalism' in Algeria

LD1607215592 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Commentary by Aleksandr Krasnov: "Is it Inevitable To Equate Fundamentalism With Terrorism?"]

[Text] Now that the tension resulting from the assassination of Mohamed Boudiaf has eased in Algeria, it is possible to assess in more detail the reasons which led to the renewal of violence in the country and to try and predict the course of events in the future. I believe that it would be right, at the start of this assessment, to sum up what had happened prior to Boudiaf's return to Algeria and his appointment as head of the Higher State Council. It is known that in January the authorities canceled the second round of the general election in fear of an astounding victory for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Then a state of emergency was declared in the country and the Higher State Council temporarily took over the reins of power.

This confrontation between the authorities and the Islamic fundamentalists led Algeria to the brink of a civil war, and in order to save the situation it was decided to call upon Mohamed Boudiaf to lead the country. The main objective behind the formation of the new government was to prepare the country for a return to democracy, to hold new free elections, and to take measures to come out of the economic crisis. Commenting on these events then, I talked about an important factor, namely the desire of Algeria's temporary leadership to start a dialogue with all the forces in society, except those calling for violence.

Five months later Boudiaf was assassinated and the country is once again on the brink of a new bloodbath. The blow came from those who support violence. It seems to me that one of the reasons behind the instability in Algeria is the policy followed by its leadership, which exploited the Islamic factor for many years as an instrument for political struggle. Since the days of the war of liberation against France, Islamic ideas used to come together with the ideas of the struggle for national liberation, and mosques were to a certain extent relay points for the resistance. This continued in subsequent years when the National Liberation Front [FLN] and the forces which shared power with it used to exploit the Islamic factor in their struggle to strengthen national independence, unite society, and mobilize the nation's forces in order to resolve the problems facing it.

As for the intense activity of the Islamic fundamentalists in the 1980s, it is linked, in my view, to the deterioration of the economic conditions and the authorities' failure to find effective ways to improve the situation. As is the tradition, the mosques became the place where people discussed their problems and examined ways to resolve them. This was exploited by the forces—for which Islam became a tool—with which to reach their political goals.

The second aspect I would like to mention is that in the absence of an open opposition, and with the weakness of the democratic forces, the religious circles led the fight against the regime not only in Algeria but also in other Islamic countries. We have examples in the Maghreb countries—Iran, Egypt, and Iraq—to a certain extent. I agree with the view of those who consider that all the political forces and sections of society, regardless of their ideals and their tactical missions, always resorted to Islam and will continue to do so, but Islam, as far as some are concerned, is something separate from politics. As far as others are concerned, it is a means to reach political goals and a way to unite the faithful with a view to resolving practical matters. This last tendency is, in my opinion, extremely dangerous and could lead to dire consequences. This is what we have been witnessing lately in Algeria, where the confrontation between the authorities and the religious opposition has caused bloodshed.

History and our past experience have shown that the religious confrontation—not to mention the religious wars—irrespective of the religion of the parties, only leads to violence and to the death of innocent people. Experience also shows that in a situation similar to that in Algeria, the authorities must demonstrate the maximum flexibility and political wisdom because any ban they impose, whether it is justified or not, will generate a spontaneous resistance by the popular masses. Therefore, firmness in safeguarding security should, in my opinion, be combined with a constructive dialogue with the opposition forces.

There is also another important aspect, namely that the way out of the political crisis in Algeria lies, in my mind, first and foremost in the economy. Improving the people's living conditions could constitute a factor toward ending the violence and guaranteeing political stability. Can the new prime minister, Belaid Abdesselam, who is known as a supporter of a centralized economy, succeed on this path? It is difficult at the moment to reply to this question, but it is worth mentioning that many find this method to be the cause behind the poor economic conditions in Algeria. I believe that the next few weeks will allow us to make more realistic predictions about how the situation might develop in Algeria.

Ukraine Ignore's Fleet Commander's Protests

PM1707142592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "The Ukrainian Side Has Ignored Six Protests by Admiral Kasatonov"]

[Text] Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Igor Kasatonov has made a statement to journalists in connection with an incident concerning the Sevastopol commandant's office. We too have described how, last Saturday, an attempt was made to place the commandant's office of the local garrison under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Navy. It became clear that 12 submachine gunners from the personal security detachment of Boris Kozhin, commander of the republic Navy, were used during the action. According to Kasatonov, only the personal intervention of Ivan Yermakov, the Ukrainian president's spokesman in Sevastopol, prevented bloodshed.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the presence of two command centers in one city—the Black Sea Fleet Command and the Ukrainian Navy Command—harbors the danger of growing conflict. The new-fledged Ukrainian Navy commander has no intention of spending time passively waiting for something to happen: He is already taking steps to create a navy, without relying too much on the efficiency of politicians. The incident concerning the commandant's office can be interpreted as an attempt by Morozov and Kozhin to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet by force.

The Ukrainian servicemen's impatience is not hard to understand: The period of summer combat training is in full swing, the intensive renewal of the fleet is proceeding—as a result of the routine draft, the Black Sea Fleet is not made up of Ukrainians alone—and point 14 of the Dagomys agreements, which prohibits unilateral actions to divide the fleet, somehow places the Ukrainian side in the position of an observer, stripped of any powers. Rukh is not inactive either; it has taken the young Ukrainian Navy under its wing. Its political emissaries are continuing a campaign of "renewing the oath of allegiance" and are campaigning for the initiative not to be dropped, for the Muscovites to be pushed off the Black Sea decks, etc. As a result, a specific psychological background is being formed which encourages an officer or a warrant officer to reflect on his future and the future of his family. People are becoming increasingly aware of the idea that Russia is far away and Ukraine is right here. Particularly since Russia's political presence in the units and subunits of the Black Sea Fleet is very ephemeral. It may be limited to no more than patriotic sentiment.

But at the moment this is what it all boils down to: It is only Fleet Commander Admiral Igor Kasatonov who is displaying any unease about the violations of the Dagomys Russian-Ukrainian agreements or alarm in connection with the attempt by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry to move on from dialogue to force and pressure. In the past two days he has sent six protests to the Ukrainian leadership, and they have all remained unanswered.

Shore Facilities Claimed

LD1707120592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1007 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul (TASS)—Fresh nuances have appeared in Ukraine's stance on the Black Sea Fleet. The TASS correspondent was informed in the Black Sea Fleet press center at the talks between the parliamentary delegations of the two states, which ended behind closed doors in Sevastopol yesterday, that Kiev stated that the fleet's shore infrastructure belongs to Ukraine.

In the opinion of the Ukrainian parliamentarians, it is only the ships which need to be shared out. The entire shore infrastructure and all the shore institutions of the Black Sea Fleet already belong to Ukraine, and there is no question of dividing them up. This stand indirectly justifies the recent attempts to "privatize" the property of the fleet and introduces dissonance into accords already reached.

It is reported that the Russian-Ukrainian dialogue will be continued at a higher level. According to a Black Sea Fleet press center spokesman, the question of the fleet will be raised in Kiev today at a meeting between Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia, and Lieutenant General Georgiy Zhivitsa, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The next round of talks on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet is expected to be held in Moscow on 18 July. A Russian delegation under the leadership of Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and a Ukrainian delegation, which should be headed by Vasiliy Durdinets, first deputy speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, are to meet at the negotiating table.

Russia-Ukraine Talks Held 18 Jul

LD1807190192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS—A working meeting between Russian and Ukrainian delegations over the problem of the Black Sea Fleet was held here on Saturday [18 July]. Russia's Foreign Ministry press department officials told TASS that the delegations exchanged their views on how to realize the recent agreements on the Black Sea Fleet and confirmed that it is important to prevent any unilateral actions aggravating the situation around the fleet. They agreed to hold the next round of negotiations in Kiev soon.

Statement on 'Violations' Issued

OW1907123392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Black Sea Fleet officers have drawn Russia's and Ukraine's attention to tensions mounting in the Fleet in connection with violations of the Dagomys agreements regarding a moratorium on unilateral actions. "This relates particularly to administering the oath and subsequent resubordination of personnel, weapons, equipment and materiel which are the objects of negotiations", says a resolution adopted by the officers' assembly held at the weekend with the participation of Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander of Ukraine's Navy. The officers pointed to the danger of arms and ammunition pilferage.

Naval officers urged the commander of the Fleet and the commander of Ukraine's Navy to refrain from issuing unilateral orders capable of aggravating the situation even further. As for the oath and frictions connected with it, according to the officers "it's necessary to request Ukraine's parliament to introduce naval service based on contracts. The command should rule out discrimination against those who swore allegiance to Ukraine.

This resolution was signed by Captain Valeriy Volodin, chairman of the coordinating council of the Black Sea Fleet officers' assemblies and by Boris Kozhin, commander of Ukraine's Navy. The Fleet's commander Admiral Igor Kasatonov approved the document on the whole.

CIS Peacekeeping Forces Costs Estimated, Viewed

LD1707215892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1223 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tskhinvali—Total expenditures on operation for disengagement of warring parties in South Ossetia amount to R [rubles] 1,270 million, said Chairman of North Ossetian Parliament Askharbek Galazov.

Askharbek Galazov said at a press conference in Vladikavkaz on July 14: Russia has already allocated for this purpose R300 million. This sum includes expenditures on the payment of wages to officer and men of the peace-keeping force and support for their operations.

According to Galazov, the Ossetian battalion includes ethnic Ossetians, Russians, Ukrainians, Armenians, as well as Cossacks and soldiers who took part in the war in Afghanistan. He said as well that the peace-keeping force would be under the command of a mixed control commission headed by three co-chairmen. From the Russian side it will be headed by chairman of the Russian commission for emergency situations Sergey Shoigu, from the Georgian side—by Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani and from the Ossetian side—by Chairman of the Council of Ministers of North Ossetia Sergey Khetagurov.

The peace-keeping force was instructed to disarm any armed groups in South Ossetia, and to use weapons if they show disobedience. The warring parties will be moved apart to the areas indicated previously by the authorities. It was suggested that the armed detachments that find themselves outside the barracks lay down arms. According to Galazov, contracts with participants in the peace-keeping mission were signed for two months. During this period South Ossetia will be under the control of the mixed control commission, which will restore all power structures of South Ossetia. If need be, the time of the stay of the peace-keeping force in South Ossetia may be prolonged, Galazov pointed out. The force will stay there until we get firm, reliable guarantees of the restoration of peace, until refugees return to South Ossetia, until all power structures are created, he stressed.

Commentary on Proposed Peacekeeping Forces

LD1807142592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Commentary by corresondent R. Oganesov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today a conference of CIS ministers of defense and ministers of foreign affairs is being held in Tashkent. The meeting participants will examine the issue of setting up and operating peacekeeping forces.

[Oganesov] It is proposed that the peacekeeping forces should be used in zones of interethnic conflicts on the territory of the former Union. At the proposal of the commanders of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, they will be manned by servicemen from the armies of the independent states and recruited from people agreeing voluntarily to serve in those units. According to the draft, the numbers of the peacekeeping forces is to be determined in accordance with the scale of the armed forces of one country or another. From large national armies the number of these formations will presumably correspond to that of a division.

In accordance with Article 51 of the UN regulations, the collective peacekeeping forces will not only have distinguishing uniforms—white helmets with blue stripes and weapons—but also the right to use those weapons should they be required for self-defense or for separating the armed formations of conflicting sides. The direct leadership of the forces will be the responsibility of the commander in each specific case, who will be appointed by decision of the CIS Council of the Heads of States, and the right to use the collective forces for peacekeeping will lie exclusively within the competence of the Council. True, one of the conditions for using the peacekeeping forces should be a mutual request by the conflicting sides. [Video shows army vehicles, military aircraft and ships; Nazarbayev, Yeltsin, and Shaposhnikov at an Army officers' meeting.]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Jul

LD1807065692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0526 GMT 18 Jul 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 18 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the discussion by the Russian parliament of the situation with the mass media and the developments in the hotbeds of tension on the territory of the former USSR.

The press reacted rather keenly to the decision of the Russian parliament to change the status of IZVESTIYA. "A blow has been dealt at the press," TRUD writes. "The IZVESTIYA newspaper has been practically declared non-existent. The parliament has changed its status by arrogating to itself the functions of judicial power." Yegor Golembiovskiy, IZVESTIYA editor-in-chief, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, that he was going to appeal to the Constitutional Court. "The parliament has come to an end politically," Russian Minister of Information Mikhail Poltoranin said, commenting on the parliamentary discussion in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a review of combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Dniester region in the first half of July under the headline "Ahead of 'Decisive' Battles". According to its estimates "the level of armed confrontation in Nagorno-Karabakh changed radically as a result of the Azeri offensive between June 12 and July 4. A period of guerrilla warfare ended and a 'normal' war is beginning. Both sides will be ready for combat operations in the forthcoming weeks. One can expect tank battles in the classical style of the Second World War". According to the information obtained by the newspaper at the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, in accordance with a personal agreement between the Russian and Armenian presidents, the Yerevan motorised rifle division was turned over to Armenia early this month. It has some 200 tanks, hundreds of armoured vehicles, guns and other military hardware.

A military potential of the Dniester Moldovan republic has been perceptibly consolidated. "Now the Moldovan side stands no chance in case of a serious armed clash," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. "The resumption of combat operations between the two sides is quite possible, because the political agreement between Moldova, Ukraine and Russia does not include the authorities of the Dniester republic." The newspaper writes with reference to the sources at the Russian Defence Ministry that Ukraine did much to strengthen the Russian 14th Army deployed in the Dniester region. Two regiments that previously were taken over under Ukrainian jurisdiction were attached to the 14th Army.

The successful beginning of the activities of multilateral peace-keeping forces in South Ossetia where "the shooting stopped for the first time in many months" may serve as an example in the settlement of the Dniester and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes. Agreements on South Ossetia could have never been reached without Russia recognising the territorial integrity of Georgia, the newspaper points out. "It is the guarantee of the inviolability of borders that Chisinau needs for holding constructive talks. Besides, the role of the Russian Army in the Dniester war does not allow Moscow to be a mediator." Touching upon a possible composition of the international force in Nagorno-Karabakh, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that "the declarations made by Armenian politicians for many years on non-interference in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are at variance with reality. They definitely remove Armenia from participation in the disengagement force. Taking into consideration the Russian-Armenian bilateral treaty within the CIS framework, Russia's neutrality is also rather vulnerable."

In the opinion of TRUD, the time has come for the Russian authorities to express clearly their attitude to the conflict in the Dniester region. The newspaper urges them to "announce clearly and unambiguously for the whole world to know whom we, our president and government, regard as the victim in that conflict, who is defending the just cause and who the wrong one, and to come to the defence of the victim without delay."

"The most important thing today is to put an end to confrontation, to achieve peace" in Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said in a PRAVDA interview. "We need a mechanism for preventing conflicts. We need real power, and this can be achieved only through the creation of a CIS multinational force," he stressed.

Khikmet Abduragim Ogly Gadzhi-Zade, a new permanent representative of Azerbaijan in Russia, has described the development of relations with Russia and other Union republics of the former USSR as the priority direction of his country's policy. "We shall continue to be orientated towards the countries formerly integrated in the USSR, with which our relations are very extensive," he stressed in an interview published by PRAVDA.

The desire to overcome the economic crisis as soon as possible, to be integrated in the world economic system and with this in view to "enlist economic and financial support of other countries" is now the priority task of the Russian foreign policy. "This refers to the relations not only with Western countries, but also with the Arab world and Asian states," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes, analysing the performance of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Touching upon the work of that institution with regard to the "nearby foreign states" (meaning the CIS member states), the newspaper writes that "relations between the CIS member states cannot be settled now only by diplomatic means." In the opinion of the newspaper, with this in view it is necessary to create a separate ministry for Commonwealth affairs.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA publishes the results of the investigation into the circumstances of the death of Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, adviser to the Soviet president. He was among those who actively supported the coup attempt last August. Immediately after the failure of the coup he committed suicide. L. Proshkin, senior investigating officer of the Russian Public Prosecutor's Office, told SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA that a criminal case on Marshal Akhromeyev's participation in the coup attempt was dropped because "there was no corpus delicti in his actions." The investigation was also dropped after his death. However, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA does not agree with the official version of a suicide and believes Arkhromeyev was blackmailed and actually forced to commit suicide.

International Affairs

Yeltsin Spokesman on Land Dispute, Japanese Aid

OW2007141492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By Katherina Pechko]

[Text] Moscow, July 20 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman called on Japan over the weekend to extend full-scale assistance to Russia as a way of ending the longstanding "Northern Territories" dispute.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, recently appointed as Yeltsin's press secretary, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that "public opinion in Russia must be changed completely" before a "wise political decision" can be made on the territorial issue.

He said Yeltsin has the political will to solve the dispute involving islands claimed by Japan off Hokkaido that were taken by the former Soviet Army at the end of World War II. But Kostikov made it clear that Yeltsin's official visit to Japan in mid- September "must have some positive result."

"Otherwise there will be a high level of disappointment both in Japan and Russia that will hold back the relationship and impede solving the difficult territorial problem," he said. The Russian official called for Japan's understanding of the political and economic situation in Russia, which he said makes it difficult to solve the territorial problem quickly. He characterized public opinion in Russia as being traditionally conservative regarding territorial matters.

"It (Russia) still has very much of the empire traditions of greater Russia and the greater Soviet Union, which only gained but gave away nothing," he said. Kostikov said neocommunist and neosocialist forces in the country "are very skillfully exploiting the current situation to stir up nationalist sentiments in the people."

"Yeltsin can't avoid taking into consideration these sentiments," he said, adding that Yeltsin "must show caution" in dealing with the issue.

The decades-old dispute over Etorofu, Shikotan, Kunashiri and the Habomais off Hokkaido has prevented Japan and Russia from normalizing their bilateral relationship. Japan has said it will not extend major assistance to Russia until the dispute is resolved.

Yeltsin's spokesman said the president's upcoming visit to Tokyo would be considered successful if the key to solving the longstanding territorial question is found through joint efforts. He said the four islands were like a basket full of valuables, saying the region is rich in natural resources such as fish and timber.

"People in Russia believe that it (the territorial issue) is not a problem of Russia but an inheritance of the war" in which Japan participated on the side of fascist Germany. But he said might be able to influence Russian public opinion if it extends financial assistance.

"In Russia, people in the streets are talking of those who are helping Russia in this most difficult period," he said. It is important to help Russia "while it is ill" Kostikov said, so that "people could see that Japan is behaving in a noble way at this hard time."

He said the attitude of the Russian people toward Germany has greatly improved since the country started to help Russia cope with its economic crisis and that Russians no longer think of Germany as as a "political and economic egoist."

Kostikov added that the four islands are of great material value and that Russia will face heavy economic losses if they are returned. Japan would also enjoy huge profits if it gets the islands back, he said. He criticized Japan for underestimating the economic dimension of the problem, saying the territorial issue cannot be decided on purely political grounds.

Tokyo's Stand 'Unchanged'

LD2007142992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo July 20 TASS—Japanese Premier Kiichi Miyazawa said on Monday [20 July] that at a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September he intends to tell Yeltsin that Tokyo is ready to show flexibility regarding the timeframe and form of the transfer of the South Kurils if Moscow admits in principle that the islands are Japanese territory and that an arrangement on concluding a peace treaty on this basis will be achieved.

At the same time, the Japanese prime minister confirmed that Tokyo's principled position remains unchanged. Tokyo demands that Russia return Iturup, Kunashir, Habomai and Shikotan Islands which went to the USSR as a result of the Second World War. He said "both sides know" that the 1855 Russo-Japanese Treaty which recognised these islands as Japanese territory "was concluded peacefully".

Joint Commission Statement on U.S. POW's

PM1707120992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Statement by Russian delegation of Russian-U.S. commission to ascertain fate of prisoners of war and those missing in action during and after World War II: "Fate of American in Russia"; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The Russian side of the joint Russian-U.S. commission to ascertain the fate of prisoners of war and those missing in action during and after World War II has made a statement, signed by commission chairman Dmitriy Volkogonov.

As a result of work done 26 March through 10 July 1992 to ascertain the fate of U.S. citizens who disappeared on USSR territory during and after World War II, it says, it has been possible to establish that in the period between 1941 and the present more than 23,000 U.S. citizens have been internees, prisoners of war, or convicted criminals [osuzhdennyye] on the territory of the USSR. Practically all of them, except those who had died, had been sent home by June 1953. As of 10 July 1992 no information testifying to the presence of living Americans in the aforementioned categories on the territory of the USSR had been discovered in state or departmental archives.

At the same time, in the course of the commission's work, amid the whole range of documents, materials, and testimonies, instances of the presence on USSR territory of around 400 U.S. citizens whose ultimate fate is unknown were revealed and confirmed by documentary evidence. This includes more than 330 U.S. citizens, the information on whom relates to the World War II period; six U.S. servicemen who avoided military service during the Vietnam War and ended up on the territory of the USSR; and more than 40 from the cold war period.

All of these cases are now being checked individually.

The commission's U.S. side has submitted information on 19 Soviet citizens taken prisoner in Afghanistan who are now in Western countries.

The Russian-American commission appeals to anyone who has any information on U.S. citizens who went missing during and after World War II to send it to the following address: 12 Ilinka Street, Moscow, 103132. Tel. 206-33-04.

Poland Bans Flights From Russian Headquarters

LD1807224792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Polish authorities have banned flights by transport aircraft from the Russian military airbase in Legnica. The Poles suspect that stolen vehicles are being taken out of their country via this air route.

Diplomat Expelled From Denmark 'Not an Agent'

PM2007133392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 4

[RIA report: "Foreign Ministry Denies Diplomat Expelled From Denmark Had Intelligence Link"]

[Text] A "provocation and another wave of spy-mania" was what Tatyana Samolis, press secretary to the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, called the arrest and expulsion from Denmark of Sergey Konrad, a staffer at the Russian Consulate.

He was deported Thursday [16 July] for "activities incompatible with his diplomatic status." An RIA correspondent was told at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry that Sergey Konrad was not an agent of the Russian special services.

Ambassador on Human Rights, Dniester Conflict

LD1707162592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau July 16 TASS—Human rights are an important part of Russia's foreign policy now, Russian ambassador to Moldova, Vladimir Plechko, said in an interview with the "NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA" newspaper on Thursday [16 July], adding that Russia's policy is to protect its citizens. It depends on the fact that how the rights of Russians are guaranteed by local legislation, Plechko said.

Touching upon the conflict in the Dniester region and the need for a joint effort between Russia and Moldova to settle the conflict, the Russian ambassador noted that Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur reached important agreements on a ceasefire, acting primarily as its guarantors.

The current task is to help implement the agreements.

According to the ambassador, the problem of the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldova should be solved in a civilised way. The most important thing is that a principle agreement has been reached to solve this problem through bilateral means.

Plechko believes that the Army and its former commanders, as well as its present commander Aleksandr Lebed, have not deserved the constant criticism they have been subjected to.

Plechko said he is the head of the Russian state delegation to talks with Moldova, which is preparing a series of agreements between the two countries. There are about twenty important documents to be signed, Plechko added.

Russian Peacekeeping Forces Arrive in Georgia

PM2007101592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Aleshkin: "Peacekeeping Forces Have Entered Tskhinvali"]

[Text] Tskhinvali—Vladikavkaz—Russian peacekeeping forces entered Tskhinvali on the afternoon of 14 July in accordance with the Dagomys agreement.

For the first time during the armed conflict there was a genuinely peaceful day in South Ossetia's capital. There are now several thousand inhabitants remaining in the city. All of them—men, women, and children—came out onto the streets in order to meet the Russian envoys. They stood in rows along the road down which a column of an airborne battalion passed. They greeted the servicemen warmly. With tears in her eyes one woman presented a bouquet of flowers to Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy minister of defense.

A short news conference for journalists from the Russian and foreign mass media, who had arrived in Tskhinvali to cover this event, took place on the territory of a helicopter regiment. Taking part in it were G. Kondratyev; Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Emergency Situations; Tengiz Kitovani, first deputy prime minister and minister of defense of the Republic of Georgia; Sergey Khetagurov, cochairman of the mixed monitoring commission and chairman of the Council of Ministers of North Ossetia; and Oleg Teziyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of defense of South Ossetia.

In reply to journalists' questions Shoygu said that the introduction of peacekeeping forces had proceeded in an organized manner, in accordance with a prearranged plan, and there had been no complications. They are fulfilling their mission as defined by the Dagomys agreement. Armed formations of the Georgian and Ossetian sides have been pulled out of the security zone.

Tengiz Kitovani issued an explanation in connection with the statement by the Georgian side about reducing the number of peacekeeping forces. He said there was no need to look for some political motives behind this statement. It may be explained purely by economic circumstances.

Georgiy Kondratyev confirmed that the accord reached in Tbilisi 6 July at a working conference of the mixed monitoring commission remains in force. Armed attempts to frustrate a peace settlement will be put down by force if necessary.

Oleg Teziyev, having thanked the Russian Government in the name of the Ossetian people for the peacekeeping action, expressed the hope that the long-awaited peace will finally be established in Tskhinvali. Sergey Khetagurov emphasized that now the immediate task was to return refugees to their homes, to establish a peaceful life, and only then to resolve all the problems which have caused the armed conflict by political methods around the negotiating table.

Georgian subunits of the joint peacekeeping forces also entered Tskhinvali 14 July. A battalion from North Ossetia was put into the conflict zone 15 July.

Serbian Sanctions Damage Country's Interests

PM2007110492 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by Viktor Gorlov: "Peace Be on Your House"]

[Excerpt] Coins were thrown into the courtyard of the Russian Embassy in Belgrade. Loaves of bread were impaled on the steel spikes of the fence. Here and there the slogan "Yeltsin and Kozyrev, You Have Sold Serbia" appeared on banners. The demonstrations in the city center lasted a week. It was painful and shameful to see them. Worst of all, it was impossible to object to the reproaches which drifted through the embassy's closed windows, but what could the people sitting behind those windows do? Many people inside the Russian Embassy in Belgrade thought quite differently to Kozyrev, one of the first to dash off his signature on the West's document on economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. He signed unthinkingly, lightly, and perhaps with satisfaction a document dooming millions of people—people close to Russians in spirit and faith—to privations and suffering.

All wars—large and small—have cast Russians and Serbs into the same trenches. This was the case in 1914, and so it was again in 1941. Who does not know this! But there is one episode in history which for some reason is rarely mentioned in our books.

On 27 March 1941 an insurrection flared up in Belgrade against the government, which had decided to appease Germany. The Serbian Orthodox Church was the first to support the people. The speech of Patriarch Gavriil at the time was heard by the whole world, and this challenge to all-powerful Germany cost not only the Serbian people dearly, but the church also. Patriarch Gavriil ended up in Dachau. Bishop Gorazd was shot. The Germans destroyed one-fourth of all churches and monasteries and converted many more into prisons and concentration camps. The church sustained losses of 7 billion prewar gold dinars. Some 250,000 Orthodox believers were forcibly converted to the Roman Catholic faith.

Yes, this was the tragedy of the Serbian people, but what did this mean for the Soviet people? Because of the Belgrade insurrection, Germany postponed the invasion of the USSR by six weeks. This was the time of the USSR's feverish preparation for the imminent war with Germany, and it is difficult to overestimate the value of these weeks' delay.

Did Minister Andrey Kozyrev know of this when he set off for Belgrade? And if he did, then his pretense of being the friend of the Serbian people, which, making use of his eloquence, he performed brilliantly, smacked still more of hypocrisy. No sooner had he left Belgrade than he signed the documents on the economic blockade of Serbia and Montenegro. He decided for himself and, alas, for Russia too, who is to blame for the Yugoslav conflict.

Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina are no less to blame than the Serbian side for the conflict, in which thousands of people are dying. And, more importantly, it is not the Yugoslav peoples who are responsible for the war in the Balkans but their neighbors—the Western countries who generously supplied illegal formations with arms, trained military specialists for them, and opened powerful ideological fronts against the Orthodox people. Hundreds of documents exist which convincingly prove that there was an attack in precisely this direction.

I would very much like the Russian foreign minister to visit Belgrade right now so that he could see the beggars in the streets of Belgrade, see the empty shelves in the stores which once groaned with goods. See that Serbs and Montenegrins have already passed the threshold beyond which lie famine, chaos, and a lingering death, but he will not come to Belgrade. Because the city would no longer greet him with the sincere, benevolent, open smile with which it greeted him before.

But if it were only the Serbian and Montenegrin people that had been punished! Russia itself has suffered. It has been deprived of many deliveries from Belgrade, mainly of medicines, food products, baby food, footwear, and clothes. The annual trade turnover between the two countries amounted to around $3 billion. So whose interests is the minister defending, if the loss to his own people is so obvious?

Among those who are finding things especially difficult right now are the well-known Yugoslav firm Karic Brothers, numerous cities and settlements in Tyumen, Omsk, and Tomsk Oblasts, and the Republic of Sakha. All these, of course, did not think for a moment, when they concluded mutually profitable contracts, that sanctions and bans on cooperation awaited them. Of course, they did not think that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or to be more exact, its leaders, would not even consult them before vetoing trade between Yugoslavia and Russia. A month before Kozyrev's visit to Belgrade, Karic Brothers granted the Republic of Sakha credits worth $115 million. A program of works was near to completion in Tobolsk, where the Karic Brothers were building an airport, an international hotel, a supermarket, a kindergarten, and other facilities so necessary to the people of Tyumen. Who do they present their grievances to now? Who will pay them for the losses inflicted by the sanctions? [passage omitted]

NATO, WEU Moves in Adriatic Viewed

PM2007145092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Article by Vladimir Peresada under the "Correspondent Comments" rubric: "How Are We Supposed To Interpret This? It Is a Short Step From a Blockade to Direct Intervention"]

[Text] Brussels—Naval operations by the North Atlantic alliance and the Western European Union [WEU] are under way off the coast of Yugoslavia. The first step, PRAVDA's correspondent was told at NATO Headquarters here, was the dispatch of two Italian Navy ships to the area last Friday, and now the main forces are on their way.

It is well known that the relevant decisions were made shortly beforehand by NATO and WEU member countries during the top-level all-European conference in Helsinki. The members of the two groupings met separately, but in essence it is a question of joint action. A NATO press service spokesman stressed during a telephone conversation that the action will be "thoroughly coordinated."

How are we to react to all this? In theory, the declared aim of the operations looks necessary and justified: to monitor compliance with the embargo imposed by the United Nations. However, who can guarantee that everything will be limited merely to "observing passing ships to ensure that they do not stop," which is what the communique of the WEU countries' foreign ministers promises, for example. Experience of similar actions, for example in the Near and Middle East, has shown on several occasions that in an explosive situation a naval blockade often develops into hostilities. Even as a result of a series of chance events, not to mention the fact that the "extreme measures" planned by the West cannot be ruled out. At any rate, the stance adopted by the United States, which would countenance the bombardment of Serbian artillery batteries from the air, suggests that a similar "sea option" could perfectly well be used.

Incidentally, considerable forces are mustering in the Adriatic. On the NATO side, the recently established permanent Mediterranean naval forces consisting of 16 combat craft are involved. For their part, the WEU countries are allocating five or six frigates and destroyers, a support ship, and naval airplanes and helicopters, and the United States, without waiting for this squadron to be deployed, has already sent two of its ships to the Yugoslav coast "on an individual basis."

Never before, even during the Persian Gulf crisis, have Western countries acted with such coordination as they are doing today. The frequently evinced desire of the U.S. West European partners for greater independence from their "big brother" has been replaced by a friendly "Euro-Atlantic harmony." The rivalry between NATO and the WEU has taken a backseat, thereby demonstrating once again that it is a matter of tactics and certainly not one of strategy. However, it could not have happened any other way, and everything is clear on this point.

Except one thing: Where are we with our European policy? Where is its effective manifestation with respect to Yugoslavia? Or are the strong-arm "peacemaking" functions of the West, which are now being implemented not in the Middle East, as was the case a year ago, but in the Balkans—i.e. in a traditional sphere of Russian influence—entirely to our liking?

Kozyrev Discusses Relations With Finland

LD1907051392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by I. Yeleferenko in Helsinki during the CSCE meetings in early July; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted [Yeleferenko] Is this visit by Boris Nikolayevich to Helsinki simply the continuation of the relations that existed between the Soviet Union and Finland, or can we talk of a new phase in the two countries' relations?

[Kozyrev] I think we can talk of a new phase, based on the traditionally special relations that we have had with Finland. Let us not forgot that a particular feature has been occasional imperial ambitions and [word indistinct] intolerance on our part in attempts to foist Soviet policy on Finland, which took a fairly tough and aggressive form. At the same time, we have a huge tradition of friendly relations. We have a strong feeling of the practical significance of the agreements on culture, on cooperation in science and technology, on cooperation in border regions. I think that all this allows us to speak, on the basis of historical contacts, of a new cooperation between the new Russia and Finland.

Foreign Ministry on Middle East Peace Talks

LD2007112292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—On the whole Russia is satisfied with the course of the peaceful settlement process in the Middle East and is ready to actively participate in it, according to Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the department for Africa and the Middle East of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Compared to the decades-long Arab-Israeli confrontation, the short period which had passed since the Madrid Conference yielded considerable results, he told TASS on Monday [20 July].

In particular, the sides switched from discussing procedural affairs to negotiating the heart of the matter. The psychological heritage of direct confrontation is being overcome and the sides realised there is a possibility of resolving the problem which concerns millions of peoples, Posuvalyuk said.

Preparatory work is being carried out for the coming bilateral and multilateral peaceful negotiations. Consultations are being held with direct participants in the conflict, as well as with Arab, European and other states capable of influencing Middle East developments, Posuvalyuk said, adding that Russia and the United States "closely and honestly" interact in the matter.

Posuvalyuk said the current visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Middle East is very important and added he would also visit the region in the near future to hold consultations with the sides involved in the conflict.

The recent elections in Israel "make an important additional move" towards promoting peaceful negotiations between Arabs and Israel, he stressed.

'Attacks' on Russian Troops in Estonia Viewed

PM2007083392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Zadubrovskiy of the the Northwestern Group of Forces Press Center and Valeriy Gromak and Vladimir Urban of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "The War Is Not Over for the Estonian 'Kaitseliit.' Attacks on Russian Troops Continue"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported the latest attack by the Estonian "Kaitseliit" on Russian servicemen. On the Haapsalu-Tallinn road gunmen of the Hari militia first fired on Air Defense unit vehicle, then took three officers hostage, employing violence against them. [passage omitted]

As the incident on the Haapsalu-Tallinn highway showed, the operations of the Hari "Kaitseliit" are getting nearer and nearer to the danger mark where casualties will be unavoidable.

Here is how Lieutenant General Fedor Melnichuk, acting commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces [NWGF], commented on the situation:

"Even before the armed incident in Estonia the NWGF command had sent the heads of the Baltic states a statement informing them that commanders and chiefs of units and subunits had been given orders to rigorously fulfill the requirements of Russian Government Resolution 407. We asked the leaders of the Baltic republics to bring the contents of the Russian Government's resolution to the attention of all members of parliament and government and the adminstrative organs and armed formations under their jurisdiction, and also to adopt measures against antiarmy formations. In Estonia, as we can see, they did not take this entirely seriously. Luckily casualties were avoided in this case, but if the same happens again, no one will be insured against them."

Yes, in the Baltic countries many actions are now being carried out under the slogan of "driving out the occupiers," and these slogans are coming primarily from eminent politicians of the Baltic states. Russia in its turn apparently does not notice that its sons increasingly feel cornered. Of course, the military themselves have the means to defend themselves. They also have the right to use force, mentioned already by Lt. Gen. Melnichuk—Russian Federation Government Resolution 407 of 20 June "On Measures To Stop Unlawful Actions Against the Russian Federation Armed Forces." It gives the right to adopt appropriate measures against attacks.

But our politicians have far more effective instruments at their disposal. Any self-respecting state, after the sort of incidents which "Kaitseliit" is organizing, would have immediately broken off the negotiating process with Estonia until official apologies were offered and the offenders punished.

One would like to know also how international organizations react to the facts cited above.

Leningrad Levies Duty on Estonian Travelers

OW1707235492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1750 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In response to the establishment by Estonia of rigid visa regulations on the Russian-Estonian border, the Leningrad regional council intends to levy "special duties" on the Estonian travellers amounting to $10 to $30 which they would have to pay while crossing the border.

In an interview to a BALTFAX correspondent, Nikolay Mezhevich, counsellor for international affairs to the chairman of the Leningrad regional council, says that this measure would be analogues to that taken and already realized by the authorities of the Pskov region.

Baltfax has already reported that the Estonian travellers are obliged to pay $10 to the Pskov regional border offices for crossing the border.

The regional council of Ivan-Gorod (Leningrad region) has already made a decision to this effect. No duties, however, have been demanded of the Estonian travellers so far. The Ivan-gorod authorities are expecting passage of the conformable resolution by the regional council.

Exempt from the customs duties will be the persons who have direct relatives in Russia, a dacha, a country house, or any other real estate in Russia; the persons who were born on the territory of Russia; the clergy, representatives of the diplomatic corps, etc.

In the meantime, the administration of the Leningrad regional council has already passed a resolution that beginning from July 20 all the Estonian residents will be obliged to purchase a 25-ruble entry permit at a border guard station in Ivan-Gorod.

Estonian Constitution May Aggravate Relations

OW1707234592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1750 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry has sent a note to the Estonian Embassy in Moscow where it qualifies the enactment of Article 124 of the Estonian Constitution as a "direct territorial claim to the Russian Federation which is ultimately unfounded from either historical or legal points of view".

Article 124 of the Estonian Constitution which was enacted on July 3 sets the state border between the two countries on the basis of the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty according to which several territories in Pskov region were integrated into Estonia.

In the wording of the Russian Foreign Ministry, "such an approach" of the Estonian side constitutes a violation of the countries' bilateral agreements and said that "any territorial claims to the Russian Federation are ultimately unavailing and may only lead to an aggravation of the relations" between the two countries.

The Russian foreign ministry has vested all responsibility for possible complications with the Estonian side.

Churkin Presents Estonian Envoy With Statement

LD2007101592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has presented Juri Kahn, Estonia's ambassador in Moscow, with the text of a statement on human rights in the Baltic states, and the decision on human rights in Estonia, which were unanimously passed by the Russiasn Parliament. Both documents were passed at the Friday morning [17 July] session of Russia's Supreme Soviet.

Churkin noted that this action by the Supreme Soviet reflects the Russian side's profound concern at the situation of the Russian and Russian-speaking population in the Baltic countries.

Russia's deputy foreign minister drew the Estonian ambassador's attention to the consequences for Russian-Estonian relations which may be caused by discrimination against the Russian-speaking population.

Meeting With Lithuanians Ends 'Without Results'

LD1707232192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The meeting in Moscow between Lithuanian and Russian Government representatives has ended without results. This was reported by Lionginas Vasiliauskas, the Lithuanian Embassy's Moscow press representative. According to him, certain difficulties arose at the meeting while deliberating the accounting between Lithuania and Russia and agreements between the banks of the two states. The press representative did not specify the nature of the disagreement.

The Government of Lithuania is striving to resolve the question of Russia's indebtedness to Lithuania and to regulate bilateral accounting between Lithuania and Russia that was broken off on 1 July following the closure of Lithuania's corresponding accounts in Russia's banks. In addition to this, the Lithuanian delegation has prepared a draft agreement regarding accounting between Lithuanian and Russian banks following the introduction of the litas.

Grachev Says No Conscripts to Lithuania

OW1907144592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1406 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has told Lithuanian authorities that Russian conscripts will not be sent to Lithuania with the exception of 1500 people designed to train specialists at the Ionava training center.

This was stated in P. Grachev's letter handed to Lithuania's Home Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius during his meeting with Lt.- General Beliayev, chief of staff of Russia's paratroops.

A. Butkevicius requested Lt.-General Beliayev to regularly submit to his office lists of Russian servicemen who go away for vacations and cross the border, since Lithuanian authorities fear that fresh recruits might be brought in in the guise of servicemen returning from leave.

Draft Agreements With Baltics Prepared

LD1807115992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0400 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] At the moment, draft agreements are being worked out between the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and its counterparts in the Baltic countries. Links between the separate spheres of activity of internal affairs organs are being improved. A correspondent was told this by Valeriy Gorchakov, head of the International Relations Administration at the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs. He noted that the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs is to ratify an agreement on cooperation; it is expected to be signed at the beginning of August.

Talks are said to be going on at the moment with representatives of Latvia about concluding a similar agreement. The counterparts in the Russian Interior Ministry believe that by the end of the year, cooperation agreements will have been signed with the ministries of all Baltic countries.

At a news briefing at the Russian Interior Ministry, to the correspondent's question about what steps are being taken on the transfer of nonferrous metals, participants in the briefing expressed slight perplexity. Information was only given to the effect that in April and May this year a joint operation was carried out with the purpose of surveying the lawfulness of removing nonferrous metal consignments. In the Gomel region 18 vehicles were stopped with 35 tonnes of nonferrous metals worth more than 40 million rubles. An investigation is continuing at the moment; representatives of the Interior Ministry declined to comment with regard to progress on the matter.

Participants in the briefing emphasized that good relations with the Russian Interior Ministry are being preserved with officials of the Baltic Interior Ministries, and that this would be greatly strengthened by new contacts.

Northwestern Forces Troops To Carry Arms

LD1707221792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to NEGA, all servicemen of the Northwestern Group of Forces traveling by cars and other vehicles will carry arms. Frolov, commander of the Vilnius Garrison, has told the Lithuanian authorities that this order has been given to chiefs of staff of the forces. This is connected with the recent killing of the Russian military men in Armenia and the attack on an army car in Estonia.

Russian Naval Forces in Baltics Being Withdrawn

LD1807203392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1428 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] The naval force battleships of Russia are being redislocated from the Baltic republics to Kronschtadt.

Two submarines from Liepaja (Latvia) arrived this week to Kronshchtadt. Now they are assigned to the Leningrad military naval base that is to accept about two dozen submarines and battleships before the end of 1992.

During the Security Council session of July 15-17, the Defense Ministry suggested that the number of armed forces personnel in Russia should not exceed 2.8 million people.

This information was given to PF [POSTFACTUM] in the central organizational department on mobilization under the general staff of Russia.

According to the Ministry of Defense of Russia experts by 1993 the personnel of Russian Army will not exceed 1.5 million people. By this time the Russian Army should have only 60 percent of personnel necessary in its composition and by the end of this year there will be about one million people missing that is not more than 600,000 people will serve in the Army after the personnel reductions.

Khasbulatov Meets Kazakh Parliament Chairman

LD1807190392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[TExt] Today in the White House the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, met the chairman of the Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet, Serikbolsyn Abdildin. The Kazakhstan parliament speaker informed the head of the Russian Supreme Soviet that the republic's Supreme Soviet session had ratified the treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two republics. Ratification of the treaty by the Russian parliament is planned in the very near future.

[Begin Abdildin recording] We, the parliaments of the two republics, do not have a task more important than ensuring friendship between peoples. Mutual relations between Russians and Kazakhs have formed over the centuries. Russians live in those states which have declared their sovereignty, and they are concerned with their further fate, the further development of their culture, and their links with Russia. This must be noted, but on this ground major politics are being acted out, politics which may lead to clashes of nations, including states. This must not be done. [Video shows meeting in progress, interview with Abdildin] [end recording]

We have just received a report that the Russian parliament has ratified the treaty on friendship between Russia and Kazakhstan.

EC, Moscow Government Launch 'Food Auction'

LD1907222392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Commissions of the European Community and of the Moscow government have launched a food auction within the framework of the humanitarian aid program. Three hundred tonnes of butter, 150 tonnes of rape oil from Ireland and the Im-Res [name as heard] baby food are being offered for sale at the auction. The proceeds from the auction will go to a special Moscow fund for providing material support to low-income Muscovites. The goods bought at the auction are to be realized only in and around the capital within a month from delivery date, at free prices. Reselling the goods on a wholesale basis is forbidden. This was reported by the RIKA agency.

European Parliament Chairman Arrives 18 Jul

LD1907085192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg July 18 TASS—Chairman of the European Parliament Egon Klepsch who is touring the CIS member states arrived here from Minsk on Saturday [18 July]. Apart from Byelarus and Russia, he is going to visit Ukraine.

Klepsch said at the airport on his arrival that the visit is aimed at strengthening relations between the European Community and the Commonwealth of Independent States in order to reach stable peace in Europe.

Agreement Reached With South Korea on Credits

LD1707191392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0523 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Ny ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul, 17 Jul—Russia and South Korea have agreed in principle on the texts of the documents needed to unblock credits which were promised and partially provided to the former USSR before its disintegration. This is the result of a seven-day visit to the Republic of Korea by a Russian delegation led by Viktor Shilin, Russian deputy minister of foreign conomic relations. The visit ended today.

During its stay in Seoul talks were held with the leaders of all South Korea's main economic institutions, including the ministries of finance, trade and industry, energy, and resources. The delegation also met representatives of major South Korean banks directly involved in matters related to the provision of credits to Russia. "The visit's very intense agenda proved successful," Viktor Shilin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in an interview.

The sides agreed that within 10 days after the handover of the documents that have been agreed here to the Koreans, Russia will pay the interest on commodity credits and its share of the interest on the bank credits provided to the former USSR. After this, South Korea will "unfreeze" the remainder of the commodity credits for 1991 amounting to $800 million, as well as commodity and investment credits totalling $900 million for the 1992-93 period.

The Korean representatives state that in the event of the Russian side not paying the interest within the time stipulated the Export and Import Bank of Korea will be forced to immediately break off both the provision of commodity credits for 1991 and the talks on credits for 1992-93. According to the leader of the Russian delegation, the provision of South Korean credits to Russia could be successfully resumed by the start of the visit to Seoul by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in mid-September of this year.

Viktor Shilin said that Russia reserves the right to determine the contents of the investment and commodity credits, deciding what it needs and what it does not need. As for the distribution of the credits provided to Russia, he said that under the conditions of a market economy, convertibility of the ruble, and access for enterprises to foreign currency, the credits will be received only by those which subsequently prove capable of independently settling for it. It is therefore expected that Russian clients will have a fundamentally new attitude toward credit in the very near future.

New Checkpoint To Facilitate PRC Contacts

PM2007104792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

["Own Information" report: "Contacts With China Broaden"]

[Text] The Maritime Kray Administration's proposals to open the "Markovo" checkpoint on the Russian-Chinese border once it has been suitably equipped for two-way passenger and cargo traffic have been approved under a Russian Federation Government resolution.

The Maritime Kray Administration was tasked in conjunction with interested ministries and departments with organizing the checkpoint's construction and developing all of the surrounding territory, infrastructure, and social sphere facilities. The construction of border, customs, and other control installations is envisaged.

Commentary on Sale of Military Aircraft to PRC

MK1707134192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 3

[Commentary by Mikhail Shchipanov: "What To Fly to Beijing?"]

[Text] After a pause lasting many years the specter of rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing is once again beginning to seriously concern the so-called civilized countries, which are accustomed to thinking on the scale of major geopolitical games. True, of course, no one expects the tempo of the well-known song "Moscow-Beijing," but Russian-Chinese cooperation is acquiring a new dimension in a very delicate sphere—the military sphere. Having overcome their initial ideological prejudice (arms do not smell?), the Chinese leaders, according to certain data, are shelling out $1 billion for 24 Su-27 fighter-bombers. It is no coincidence that ideology comes to mind in connection with this "deal of the century."

The thing is that the sale of supermodern military aircraft has come in a most unexpected way to symbolize the continuity of the "Moscow policy" toward China. Efficient fighters were first promised to China under Gorbachev. Marshal Yazov, who later visited the capital of China (he was on his rounds then), dotted all the "i's" in the future aviation deal, it has to be thought. The rapprochement between the two "communist giants" was being reinforced quite solidly. Moreover, the CPSU actively substituted for the state, actively taking into its weakening hands the development of economic ties with political class brothers. Thus, V. Ivashko, the party's No. 2 man, held talks on credits in Beijing. CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin, who came to Moscow on a return visit, did not venture to meet with Yeltsin and chose to ignore Mayor Sobchak in St. Petersburg. In short, it seemed that the ties between Moscow and Beijing had been most decisively ideologized, and the Chinese leaders' certain satisfaction at the breakup of a country which had renounced its ideological essence (an edifying example) merely intensified the impression that Yeltsin would not be a welcome guest in China for a long time.

But everything passes. The Russian president, who you might think could summon up "unhealthy" associations in "ordinary" Chinese people, is expected in China on an official visit in the fall, and democratic Russia is fulfilling its former commitments relating to military supplies. Incidentally, there is information that the Chinese are also lost in contemplation of MiG-31 fighters. Thus, thanks to cooperation with Russia, China evidently hopes to get around the Western restrictions provoked by the not too great respect for human rights on the part of Mao's successors.

There is no doubt that Russia cannot manage without large-scale trade in weapons. It is another matter that the consequences of any deliveries must be calculated in advance. In this case the acquisition of Su-27's, which will significantly "lengthen" Beijing's reach, will give rise to guarded suspicion in Taiwan and in certain other states, giving a boost to the regional arms race. There has been and still is no open control over such deals in Russia.

Arms Exports to PRC Reportedly Concern Japan

LD1907054392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] According to ITAR-TASS, Japan is concerned at the increasing supplies of weapons from Russia to China. Japanese diplomats are warning Russia that these may cause a disruption of the military balance in Asia. Supplies of weapons to Beijing undermine Moscow's chances of receiving large-scale Western aid. According to Japan, Russia has already begun to supply a squadron of 24 SU-27 fighters to the PRC this year. China's interest in buying the aircraft carrier Varyag has also been noted.

According to some reports, the Japanese brought up this question at the June meeting in Moscow on problems of foreign policy planning. Tokyo would like Washington, too, to oppose supplies of weapons from Russia to China. However, according to ITAR-TASS, at present the White House has not undertaken any active steps.

Scientific Delegation on Visit to PRC

LD1907183292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A Russian scientific delegation headed by Vladimir Shorin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Science and National Education, was in China for almost a week. Our correspondent in Beijing, Vladimir Kulikov, reports:

[Kulikov] Before the flight back to the homeland, I interviewed Shorin, who highly appraised the prospects for scientific cooperation between the two countries. If before he said that relations between us are built at the level of state structures and proceed mainly via government organizations, then now both sides intend to attract enterprises, establishments, higher educational establishments, and a greater number of people into the sphere of cooperation.

During a talk between members of the delegation and Li Tieying, chairman of the PRC State Education Commission, the broadest range of questions connected with cooperation in the sphere of education, science, and technology were discussed. We agreed, stressed the Russian parliamentary deputy, that a Russian-Chinese university will be created as the latest expression of our humanitarian ties.

As for scientific and technical cooperation, the question was worked through of closer contacts with the Academy of Sciences in China and of more intensive training of specialists in the sphere of the Chinese language. These and other proposals will form the basis for a treaty on scientific and technical cooperation which both sides plan to sign at the end of this year. Chinese work experience in special economic zones, in particular in Shenzhen in southern China, which the guests from Russia visited, especially interested the members of the delegation. In particular, the experience of using land for foreign investors when the land is not sold but leased for 50 years, which is advantageous for both sides, has proved valuable for China. The infrastructure of small industrial enterprises set up in free economic zones, multistage conversion in military production, and many other things interested the delegation.

Government Approves UN Decision on South Africa

LD1707170392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The discussion in UN Security Council of the situation in South Africa, which was held on July 15, was fruitful, according to spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In Russia it is believed the balanced resolution adopted by the Security Council will "ease tension and confrontation among participants in the talks, will help overcome the deadlock in South African settlement and promote a fast resumption of negotiations," Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told reporters on Friday [17 July].

He expressed confidence that the mission of a UN envoy to South Africa will be a success and that his recommendations will allow the Security Council to "work out effective measures of international assistance in overcoming the crisis in political life of South African republic and in creating a non-racial, democratic state there."

Commentary Views Resolution

MB1807202392 Moscow Radio Moscow in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Commentary by Aleksey Lidvinov]

[Text] The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution on the situation in South Africa and has decided to send a special envoy to the country. Aleksey Lidvinov comments:

We can expect the UN resolution to give rise to different interpretations. Who really won, following the UN sessions on the situation in South Africa—the government or the ANC [African National Congress]? Although we have not yet received the latest South African newspapers we can judge from statements made by both the government and the ANC, that both view the UN document as a personal victory. We believe that the UN resolution should appeal to sensible people. The UN Security Council is very busy trying to find a solution to the crisis in South Africa.

It will, most likely, also be the aim of a UN mission in South Africa to persuade the government and the ANC to resume negotiations. It can be expected that definite preliminary contact will be made since neither the government nor the ANC believes that the conflict can be solved outside negotiations. A variant does exist, a military variant, but this possibility will only provide temporary victory to either party. At the same time it can be expected that firm pressure will be exerted, in the near future, on both the government as well as the ANC in order to lessen the confrontation between the two.

The arrest of two agents from the South African Security Services, in Great Britain, who according to newspaper reports planned to murder an ANC member, indicates that President de Klerk is not boss in his own house, as many observers believe. The ANC is being suppressed by radical members. Partial internationalization of the South African conflict by the UN could have a positive influence on the whole process of reform in South Africa. The form of mediation offered by the Security Council will make it possible to diffuse the situation, since it will act as a neutral adviser.

However, finding a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems is the prerogative of the South African politicians.

Federation Affairs

Political

Presidential Advisory Committee Holds Meeting

OW1707175992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidential advisory committee held its regularly scheduled meeting in the Kremlin on Friday, July 17th. Russia's progress in economic reforms was discussed at the meeting.

Aside from President Yeltsin, others present at the meeting included: Secretary of State under the President of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Burbulis; academicians Georgiy Arbatov, Oleg Bogomolov, Vladimir Tikhonov, and Alexey Emelyanov; plenipotentiary ambassador to France Yuriy Ryzhov; members and correspondents from the Russian Academy of Sciences Svyatoslav Fedorov, President of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Lease Holders Pavel Bunich, and Professor of economics Nikolay Shmelev; presidential advisor Dmitriy Volkogonov; leader of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms, Professor of economics Gavril Popov; St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak; the famous theater figure Mark Zakharov; publicist Yuriy Karyakin; director of the All-Russian Center for the Study of Social Opinion Yuriy Levada; and President of the Inter-regional Association of Cooperatives and Entrepreneurs Valeriy Pisigin. Writer Danil Granin is on a business trip in Germany and thus was unable to attend the meeting.

Opening the meeting, President Yeltsin remarked that the advisory committee's recess of more than one month had left him with an extremely heavy work load. He stressed that the advisory decisions worked out by the committee play a vital role in determining both domestic and foreign policies.

Reforms Viewed

LD1707190192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told his Consultative Council on Friday [July 17] he was satisfied with positive tendencies in conflict areas, while members of the council concentrated on discussing the new programme of boosting economic reforms.

Yeltsin believes a successful formula of disengaging conflicting sides was found in the Dniester region and South Ossetia which will allow to react much faster to similar conflicts in future, according to Vyacheslav Kostikov, the presidential spokesman.

Members of the Consultative Council "gave a constructive and, at the same time, critical assessment" of the economic programme of boosting reforms in the coming three years, Kostikov told reporters.

Noted economist Pavel Bunich said the programme is very concrete and introduces economic innovations, but added that it is too optimistic. The predicted inflation rate and budget deficit are too low.

Svyatoslav Fedorov criticised the programme for the absence of labour motivations. Economist Nikolay Shmelyov said the programme is interesting, concrete and dynamic, but it is necessary to make investments tax exempt.

Most speakers proposed to pay more attention to the development of enterpreneurship and said the state should support it. "If we fail to provide normal conditions at the microlevel, there will be no macroeconomic stabilisation at all," member of the council Vladimir Tikhonov told TASS commenting on the discussion of the economic programme.

The council also expressed concern over parliamentary interference into practical economic activity, according to Kostikov.

Yeltsin Names Candidates for Central Bank Post

PM1707125992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 1

["Own information" report: "Matyukhin To Retire. Gerashchenko To Return?"]

[Text] It has been learned that the retirement of Central Bank of Russia Chairman G. Matyukhin has finally been approved. At a meeting with mass media leaders President Yeltsin named three new candidates for this post: B. Fedorov, former Russian finance minister, now working in London for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; V. Gerashchenko, former chief of the USSR State Bank, widely known to Soviet citizens for his pithy expression: "I stake my arm that there will be no monetary reform" (incidentally, many experts with whom the president's apparatus consult are recommending him as an internationally recognized specialist); and the third is the leader of a commercial bank.

Gerashchenko Appointed Chairman

LD1707222692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The Russian parliament appointed on Friday [17 July] Viktor Gerashchenko acting chairman of the Central Bank of Russia.

He replaced Georgiy Matyukhin who resigned for health reasons.

The nomination of Gerashchenko was agreed upon with the president and the acting prime minister, Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the parliamentary Planning and Budgetary Commission, told deputies.

New Chief Discusses Policies

OW1807131492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1234 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The cash shortage resulting from rising prices and technical problems in printing large bills can be overcome by mid-August provided wages and social allowances are kept down—the acting head of Russia's Central Bank Victor Gerashchenko has said in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX.

Concerning the slow-down in clearing settlements, he pointed to some methodological errors on the part of the Bank's previous management that failed to coordinate its actions with the commercial banks or to consult economic experts.

V. Gerashchenko intends to meet shortly with commercial bankers to find the optimal variant for improving liquidity. He stressed, though, "an immense effort" will be needed to cope with the backlog in banking documents.

He sharply criticized the Central Bank's credit and monetary policies. The Bank, in his opinion, cannot hand its responsibility for the distribution of resources over to the government. In that way it misses the historic chance to bring enterprises in due line with the credits they can raise. That also prevents the real use of the commercial banks' potential.

It is vital to support those productions that meet the people's demand, he stressed. He also insisted on keeping the rouble as the unit for settlements between the states of the former USSR. It would be wrong to set up such a system of settlements that would drive Russia's suppliers from the near neighbours' markets thus conceding them to competitors. "Why should we give up our what we have and then start from scratch solving the issues that the Common Market has been solving since 1956?", he queried.

To a question about making the rouble convertible V. Gerashchenko replied that was yet an unattainable goal. The world experience shows, he says, that it is impossible to make the currency convertible without a balanced economic situation. "I do not think that games with the fine notion of convertibility are timely now", he remarked.

In that sense he expressed doubt the Central Bank's intervention on the currency exchange was any use. In his estimate the Bank has sold about $500 mn [million] in the first six months of the year which could have better been used for servicing the former USSR's foreign debt.

In conclusion V. Gerashchenko made a reservation that he has only expressed his preliminary assessments. "Many things should be seen from inside", he stressed. On his appointment he commented, "You can't expect any new team to work miracles or conjurer's tricks solving all problems like pulling rabbits out of a top hat".

Former USSR Vice President Interviewed

LD1907213192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1455 GMT on 15 July carries a 48-minute edition of the "In the Moment of Truth" program. Former USSR Vice President Gennadiy Ivanovich Yanayev, arrested on 23 August 1991 on charges of plotting the coup d'etat as head of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, is interviewed by Andrey Karaulov.

Replying to a question on whether it was it all worth it, Yanayev says that a great country was being destroyed and was undergoing a crisis that is still with us. We wanted to make a final effort to save the country, not to cause it to regress. He comments that perhaps we should not have introduced troops into Moscow; perhaps there was another way. At that time, he says, I and my colleagues proceeded from the fact that I was a state leader and a patriot to whom the state's destiny was not a matter of indifference. Therefore, we had to act. Lately there have been attempts to portray the State Committee for the State of Emergency as some kind of fascist group, but there was never any plot. For the first four months of our incarceration we were portrayed as traitors to the homeland. Then we had to face different charges—charges of plotting to seize power. How can this be, he asks, as we already had power.

Yanayev continues by saying that he does not feel guilty. He says he seems to be guilty as far as the Soviet people are concerned, since they think he could have prevented poverty, interethnic strife, and the floods of millions of refugees. As far as the law or the charges are concerned, he says, I am not guilty and will defend myself in every possible lawful way.

Karaulov then asks about former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's involvement, if any, in the coup attempt, saying: "You say that you were unable to sort out numerous problems, meaning yourself, Prime Minister Pavlov, Supreme Soviet Chairman Lukyanov, Defense Minister Yazov, etc. Does it follow then, that you, as the country's senior leaders, were obstructed from solving these problems by one man—Gorbachev?"

Yanayev replies: "That is a substantial question, and I will try to answer it without digressing. It is an important question. Yes, the situation was that the country's senior leadership became involved in these events. I said at the very beginning of this interview—and I repeat it now—we were unable to solve all the glaring problems. So, as in Hamlet, the question for the state was: To be or not to be? I cannot say that I and my colleagues tried to avoid doing what we had to do, to prevent the situation from getting worse. Knowing Gorbachev, we realized that he would agree to take certain measures if we could convince him that these measures were truly essential. Meetings, including closed ones, were frank and sincere. Gorbachev would allow us to have our say and would often agree with those present but would unfortunately go and do something else the next day. That was up to him. At certain meetings—I remember in particular one in April last year—President Gorbachev instructed representatives of state authorities to prepare various documents for the introduction of a state of emergency. Many of the clauses that we used in State Committee for the State of Emergency documents during the night of 19 to 20 August came from those drafts that were drawn up at President Gorbachev's behest. President Gorbachev did not reject the possibility of imposing a state of emergency in the country."

Following a brief musical interlude, Yanayev continues: "I will not say that I disagreed 100 percent with Gorbachev, but the extent of my disagreement grew steadily. This was one of the subjective factors that influenced me when I concluded that something had to be done. When we all gathered together—I got to the Kremlin at about 2030 on 18 August and then some of my comrades got together—I found out that a group of comrades, including my colleagues who are currently sharing with me the facilities at Matrosskaya Tishina and the hospitality of the management here, that they were flying to see Gorbachev. I found out about this during the evening. Unfortunately, I did not know about it in advance. I am already forgetting the sequence of events, which perhaps I should not admit, but anyway they were flying to see Gorbachev, not to isolate him. This is a difficult issue—one for the court hearing. They were off to see Gorbachev in the sincere belief that he would understand our arguments that the country was on the brink of deciding Hamlet's question along the lines of not to be and that Gorbachev would agree to the measures that had been drawn up on his instructions in April. That is why the group flew to Gorbachev, but Gorbachev was an indecisive man and might not immediately make up his mind, so that, apparently, is why the rather discourteous decision was made to disconnect his communications lines locally."

Yanayev continues: "It was borne in mind that nothing had yet been done to stabilize the situation in the country. It was expected that then Gorbachev would fly in to attend a session of the Supreme Soviet and would either support the state of emergency or disavow everything that we had done. If he disavowed it then I would obviously have to resign, and I think that my comrades would have had to do the same. Nothing that we did on 18 and 19 August was motivated by any desire for personal gain. I knew that I could lose everything and gain nothing. I did not see myself as president of the country. I knew that there had to be someone, by virtue of his responsibility to the people, to say what I said. That is all."

Yanayev continues by saying that we had to inform the president about the real situation in the country. The situation was getting worse by the hour. He was not unaware of things. Gorbachev had the key to things. Order had to be restored before leaping into market relations. National economy links had to be restored, but we were not against private property, nor did we ever advocate execution of criminals without due judicial procedures. We were not fighting anyone; we were fighting the various negative phenomena which led to the USSR's disintegration. I share the blame for this as vice president. We had no policy. Gorbachev had one policy in the morning and another in the evening. We did not plan to have Gorbachev removed from power. I was confident the people would support our first steps, such as lowering prices for children's articles and prime necessities. After 22 August, 45 percent of the country's population supported us.

Karaulov says that if that really was the case, Yanayev would have become president. I never saw myself as president, replies Yanayev.

Asked whether it was a surprise to find so many opponents, Yanayev answers: "When I found out that many people had gathered outside the Russian White House, I did everything I could to prevent violence. We all did everything we could to prevent violence. One can form various opinions regarding the appeals from President Yeltsin and his associates. Incidentally, as early as 19 August we were accused at a rally condemning us of betraying our country. For me it was surprising to see a qualified lawyer like Shakhray with Yeltsin in a car drafting a decree describing our actions as treason under Article 64 of the Russian Federation criminal code. It was very important for me to prevent bloodshed. What happened during those days was a shock for me as a human being. During those three days I left the Kremlin once for the news conference. That was the only time I left my office. Later, when I was in a detention cell and found out that I had supposedly tried to flee to Saddam Hussayn or to al- Qadhdhafi, I did find it rather amusing in terms of the kind of information that had been put out about me."

Karaulov asks: "Did the people outside the White House know that you were in the Kremlin all the time?"

Yanayev replies: "Yes, they knew."

Karaulov asks: "Were they a surprise to you?"

Yanayev answers: "It was the natural reaction of people who thought that evil demons had seized power and would soon be running riot, shooting, killing, etc."

Karaulov questions: "These evil demons did not ask the Alpha Group to immediately get into a helicopter and attack the White House?"

Yanayev states: "Regarding any attack on the White House, I think it better not to delve into the investigation and not to discuss this matter. If I tell you that an attack against the White House was intended, then I would be encroaching upon the investigation, which is not something that I want to do. What I can tell you is that the State Committee for the State of Emergency did not on any occasion discuss an attack on the White House and did not on any occasion decide—and I want the viewers know this—did not on any occasion decide to mount an attack on the White House. The investigation will clarify everthing. Second, Comrade Yeltsin was very well aware of this. We spoke on 20 August and I told him that there would not be any kind of attack on the White House. Not only that, I drew up a statement to this effect, but unfortunately was unable to have it promulgated. Yet I did raise this question at a meeting of the State Committee for the State of Emergency on the fact that rumors were circulating, seemingly from President Yeltsin, to the effect that an attack on the White House was planned. I prepared a statement that there would be no such attack." Asked how he could have said that Gorbachev was undergoing a cure in the Crimea, Yanayev replies that this was true. He says that the decision to introduce troops into Moscow was to prevent public disturbances. It had already been done once, in March 1990. On the morning of 20 August we decided to have the units withdrawn from Moscow, he says. It was probably a mistake. Yanayev says he is not sure that the tanks were ready for action. To this very day I am terribly sad that those three boys died, he comments, then sends his condolences to their families.

Karaulov asks why, if the country's best interests were paramount, people like Yeltsin and Silayev were not invited to join the State Commmittee for the State of Emergency. Yanayev replies: "I think that this question has to be divided into two parts. The State Committee for the State of Emergency was formed on 18 and 19 August and assumed responsibility for proclaiming the state of emergency in our country. After that, bearing in mind that we were going to hold talks with all the republican leaders—and we did have some conversations with them over the phone, including Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin—at the news conference I said that with us were representatives of some of the autonomies. I said that we had spoken over the phone with republican leaders. I also admitted that at the moment, unfortunately, Russia does not support us, but I hope that we will find a common language. We did want and try to make some use of Yeltsin's practical and political prestige so that together we could try to restore our collapsing country and collapsing situation."

Karaulov asks: "Was Yeltsin's name on the list of people to be shot immediately?"

Yanayev replies: "Let's not talk in such [word indistinct] terms, because I am being forced to encroach upon the investigation. You will not find in our documents a single list in which Yeltsin or any citizen of the Soviet Union or any member of the Russian leadership is named for execution."

Karaulov asks: "Is this because you do not know about it, perhaps?"

Yanayev replies: "I have all the materials for our case and can assure you that nobody had any intentions regarding Yeltsin's life or health. The same is true for Comrade Silayev, who made an attempt on my life, for example, when in the magazine OGONEK immediately after the events he described our actions as treason and demanded the death sentence for all of us. Such are his legal ethics and morals."

Karaulov asks whether Yanayev realizes that Russia is an altogether different country. Yanayev says he will reply as a citizen and a human being: I think I knew what people live by. I saw their problems. I thought I was responsible for the calamity that befell Russia. Do you have this sort of understanding? Almost half of the country's population said the State Committee for the State of Emergency was right even during the very peak of the campaign against the committee. Gorbachev himself said so in an IZVESTIYA interview.

Yanayev continues: Read all our documents; it does not say anywhere there that we want violence or that we want to stifle democracy.

Karaulov says that Yanayev and his colleagues could have stopped the violence in trouble spots. We had to have Gorbachev's consent, says Yanayev. That is why Pavlov wanted to have more power.

Yanayev states: "When Pavlov was forced to ask the Supreme Soviet for additional powers for the Cabinet of Ministers, this was not because he was an evil genius or because he wanted to clamp down on the country, but because he realized that some radical economic and administrative decisions were needed. His hands and feet were bound and he could not make any decisions in the Cabinet of Ministers without Gorbachev's say-so. Our nice, former, Supreme Soviet had contrived to deprive the Soviet Government, meaning the Cabinet of Ministers, of the right to initiate legislation. Judge for yourself."

Karaulov says: "But Gorbachev was no Brezhnev, let alone Stalin. You yourself said that you could speak out freely, say what you think, and exchange views, yet now you say he was a dictator, that he kept you all under control and did not let you assume any responsibility."

Yanayev replies: "What is at issue is not whether Gorbachev was a dictator, but his failure to act. This failure to act resulted, unfortunately, in what we are forced to witness all around us—failure to act, indecisiveness, uncertainty. These political hesitations of his forced us to finally go to him and say: Come on, either we get down to work or we quietly disavow what we stand for. That is what our actions were intended to achieve. Gorbachev could have stood up at the Supreme Soviet and said: I should have been involved alongside you. He could have returned to Moscow from Foros for the 26 August Supreme Soviet. He would have had access to the mass media, so I was not being disingenuous when I said at the news conference that my friend, Gorbachev, will be able to speak to the media very soon. But I was not asked about that. If he refused to support the State Committee for the State of Emergency at the Supreme Soviet, we would have said: OK, President Gorbachev, Supreme Soviet, you are assuming responsibility for the future of the country, because at the time it was very fashionable to begin these endless meetings of ours with talk about how the country is in turmoil. The president would say: It is alright; we are doing the right thing; the process has begun, etc. We as citizens, and I as a citizen, no longer had the right to continue like that. I knew that in the end I would suffer most from all of this, but I went ahead anyway. I did it deliberately, not with my own interests in mind, but out of my own concept of honor, patriotism, and what I could do to help my long-suffering people."

Asked why they did not convene the Supreme Soviet on 19 August, Yanayev says that they did discuss this. Asked whether he has a clear conscience, he answers: "I repeat again that I have never been a traitor and never will be. Nobody will turn me into a traitor. I am a true son of the people and remain so."

He adds: "In my opinion, it is very strange to accuse, Marshall Yazov or General Verennikov of treason, as they fought to save their country in the Great Patriotic War." The court will make its views known, Yanayev concludes. There was no plot, nor was there a putsch. There was an attempt to avert the impending disaster.

Karaulov's final question is whether Yanayev thought he would be up to the job of vice president. Yanayev says that he knew it would be no easy task, but thought that he might be of use to President Gorbachev during a difficult time. Shevardnadze had recently left his team and others such as Yakovlev were drifting away. Yanayev said that he would have done his best and tried to be of value.

Rutskoy Critical at Civic Union Meeting

MK1707134592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Tatyana Malkina under the "In Brief" rubric: "Civic Union 'On Formal Terms'"]

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy, Arkadiy Volskiy, Aleksandr Vladislavlev, Vasiliy Lipitskiy, and Yevgeniy Velikhov participated yesterday, 16 July, in the first session of the Political Consultative Council of the Civic Union. A discussion of the already well-known "Economic Policy Alternatives" program, which proposes a state-regulated economy geared to the large-scale defense industry in the area of the former USSR, was declared the main topic of the session. But the main document can be considered the Civic Union's letter to President Yeltsin: "...The situation within the Russian leadership does not contribute to the efficient fulfillment of its functions. In it there exist quite different views on the future paths of reform, and disagreements have piled up... The situation demands vigorous adjustments while preserving the strategic course of reform... The Civic Union is ready to submit its own detailed action program on the economy and in the social sphere, as well as proposals for cadre backup for this program. We deem it necessary to hold consultations with you without delay on a designated range of questions."

"I believe that people who have a good understanding of what reform is will be able to join the government selectively," Vice President Rutskoy declared, remarking in passing that "there is no place in such posts" for people like Foreign Minister Kozyrev.

Council of Constructive Forces Holds Session

LD1707175192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1509 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The first session of the Council of Constructive Forces (CCF) convened to prepare a meeting of leaders of CCF parties and movements, was held on Friday [17 July] in the Russian Commodity Stock Exchange building, TASS learned from Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Party of Economic Freedom (PEF).

Borovoy, who is one of the founders of the CCF, said that the session was attended by leaders of the "main parties and movements", in particular, the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms, the Democratic Party of Russia and others. The CCF has among its members representatives from the "Civil Union" and the "Forum of Reform Supporters", as well other representatives who belong to neither of these blocs, Borovoy pointed out. One third of the participants are trade union leaders.

The CCF worked out its basic concept which calls on the CCF to become an open association of leaders of political parties and public movements in Russia.

"The council is neither a political bloc, nor a mass movement," Borovoy said. "it is a consultative organ of leaders of parties and movements," he emphasised.

The main goal of the Council of Constructive Forces is stated in its main document which was adopted at the session—the achievement of civil consensus, peace, and stability through interaction with the president, government and the parliament.

The next session of the council is scheduled for July 29.

Press Aide on 'Attempt' on Shakhray's Life

LD1707120992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The press secretary of Sergey Shakhray, the representative of Russia's president in the Constitutional Court, has stated that an attempt has been made on the life of his boss, INTERFAX reports on 17 July.

Yesterday evening, Sergey Shakhray and the bodyguard allotted to him by the president for the period of the work of the Constitutional Court were being driven along the Mozhayskoye Shosse and in the area of Ulitsa Grishina a blue Zhiguli hit Sergey Shakhray's Volga from the left side and them the occupants made themselves scarce.

Shakhray's driver lost control of the car—it hit a tree and overturned. At present the driver is in hospital, Sergey Shakhray's bodyguard is in a resuscitation ward, and Sergey Shakhray got away with slight bruises.

'Unlikely' Assassination Attempt

LD1707131192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Sergey Shakhray, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's lawyer in the Russian constitutional court hearings deciding the future of the Communist Party, said the car accident on Thursday [16 July] was unlikely to be an assassination attempt.

"I have no reasons to say that the car accident that happened yesterday was an assassination attempt, especially one for political reasons," Shakhray told journalists on Friday.

Former CPSU Chief Denies Involvement

OW1707175892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Former first secretary of the Central Committee of the RSFSR Communist party, Valentin Kuptsov, categorically denies any attempts at implicating the CPSU in the road accident involving Sergey Shakhray, the Russian president's representative at the Constitutional Court. At the press conference in Moscow today [17 July], Valentin Kuptsov has expressed sympathies to his opponent at the court proceedings.

In commenting on the assertions by the Russian president's press secretary that there was an attempt at Sergey Shakhray's life, Yuriy Ivanov, the CPSU attorney averred that the fact of an attempt could be established only when a suspect is found guilty by the court following an investigation and trial.

Valentin Kuptsov maintained, in the meantime, that the president's representatives in the Constitutional Court "have failed to fulfill his [the president's] assignment and put an end to the CPSU lawsuit".

In his opinion, "given the CPSU case is resolved constitutionally", the communists will convene a rehabilitating congress or a plenum, work out their strategy and tactics under the present conditions and "determine their mission in the transformations currently occurring in Russia".

Other Driver Detained

LD2007101992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] An INTERFAX correspondent was told by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs' press center that the driver of the vehicle that collided with the car of Sergey Shakhray, the Russian president's representative at the Constitutional Court, on 16 July was identified and persuaded to give himself up on 10 July [date as heard]. The driver of motor vehicle VAZ 2106, who vanished from the scene of the incident, turned out to be a barber shop manager.

In his statement, the driver, whose name has not yet been released, explained that on 16 July he was driving his vehicle along the Mozhayskoye highway toward the oblast. Two other people were in the vehicle with him and they were all in an inebriated state. Traveling at a speed of 100 to 120 kilometers per hour, he decided to overtake a car driving on his left, but he lost control and hit the car with the left rear of his car. Having seen that as a result of the collision the Volga, which was carrying the president's representative, was skidding on the opposite side of the road, the offender quickly left the scene. Having subsequently learned that Sergey Shakhray had been in the car, he tried to stage the theft of his own vehicle. The investigation is continuing.

Labor

Unions Declare 2-Month Moratorium on Strikes

LD1707161292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions "does not intend to stage any collective actions, at least in the forthcoming two months," its chairman Igor Klochkov told ITAR-TASS. "Despite the differences, we still hope to work jointly with the government in a constructive way and to settle acute social problems by means of talks."

At the same time, the leader of the Russian independent trade unions stressed that the Cabinet of Ministers "is evading radical solutions." The key demands of the federation, which include the elimination of indebtedness connected with the payment of wages, the restoration of the paying capacity of enterprises and the taking of social protection measures in connection with new prices of energy carriers, have not yet been met. Presidential decrees and government resolutions aimed at putting in order mutual account-settling between enterprises and the granting of credits to them for increasing their turnover capital "are being implemented in a sluggish way."

According to Klochkov, the authorities are "in no hurry to raise minimum wages from 900 to 2,500 rubles, although this is becoming necessary because of the continuing growth of prices."

"If the dialogue with the government on these and other acute problems turns out to be unproductive, we shall have to get back in September or October to the problem of collective protest actions, including strikes," Klochkov said.

Military

New Northwestern Commander in Chief Appointed

OW1707234492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1750 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin signed a presidential decree July 16, appointing Colonel General Leonid Mayorov to the post of Commander-in-Chief North Western Group of Forces.

7th Army Officers' Demands, Remarks Detailed

LD2007120392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—The officers of the Russian 7th Army, stationed in Armenia, have been placed in such difficult conditions that they are ready to defend their rights themselves. Lieutenant Colonel Vitaliy Mizov, head of the department for sociolegal work in the Army, stated this on 20 July in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He noted that in a recently adopted appeal by an officers' assembly of the Army Staff and Directorate to the Russian leadership and the Russian Federation defense minister, the servicemen demand that an interstate act on the status of the Russian forces' presence in Armenia and their final structure and composition be passed no later than 10 August, as well as a decision on the matter of officers serving on the territory of the republic.

Officers of the 7th Army are trying to get a two to threefold increase in their money allowance with respect to officers serving on the territory of Russia, said Valeriy Mizov. They are also demanding that one month of service in this Army be regarded as two months, and that the transfer of equipment and weapons and the provision of assistance in retraining specialists for the Armenian military department be halted. Their other demands are for an immediate start to housing construction in oblasts of the European part of the Russian Federation for the families of officers and warrant officers of the 7th Army Directorate and units being disbanded, and for no organizational measures to be taken toward the transfer, disbandment, and withdrawal to Russia of units stationed on the territory of the republic.

Lieutenant Colonel Mizov stressed that it is only the circumstances of service in Armenia, where there is a policy of discrimination against Russian officers, which are compelling officers to put such demands forward. The officers' indignance is being caused by the violent seizure of military equipment and threats to use force to make them participate in the fighting on the territory of Karabakh. For example, such demands were made recently by irregulars from the 'Tigran Mets' detachment. Staff from the republic's law enforcing bodies in such cases are not only unable to protect the honor and dignity of the servicemen, but are also themselves afraid of the irregulars. Eight servicemen of the 7th Army have perished at the hands of the irregulars over the six months of 1992, but not a single culprit for these crimes has been found.

Airshow To Display Latest Russian Aircraft

LD1807160892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Ryabov]

[Text] Zhukovskiy (Moscow Region) July 16 TASS—"The Mosaviashow-92 will put on display exhibits of Russian military technology which could be seen only from spy satellites until recently," the show sponsors told journalists on Thursday [16 July].

The show sponsored by Aviaprom, Rosaviasoyuz, the foreign trade association Aviaexport and the German company Bloche International will be held at the airfield of a research institute in the city of Zhukovskiy, Moscow Region, between August 12 and 16.

Over one hundred aircraft taking off from Europe's longest, 5-kilometer, runway will participate in the show. Spectators will see for the first time TU-22 MZ and TU-160 giant bombers as well as carrier-based SU-27k and MiG-29K fighters. Visitors will also see the latest antiaircraft missile systems Uragan, Kinzhal and Buk.

Over 20 major aerospace companies from the United States, Britain, Czechoslovakia and Poland announced their participation in the show.

Despite the fact that the sponsors have already spent five million marks and 20 million roubles for the exhibition, the price for an entry ticket will be only 30 roubles. Foreign exhibitors will pay 570 U.S. dollars for one square meter of exhibition space.

The exhibition will be open only for businessmen, researchers and the press for the first three days. It will be open for all on August 15 and 16 when the main show events will be staged.

Army Taking Greater 'Political Initiative'

LD1807224892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] On Thursday [16 July] participants in a session of the intraparty council for military and political issues and of the coordinating council of the Servicemen for Democracy movement have called for holding a roundtable of all democratic parties and movements in Russia.

In the view of those gathered, the Army's political initiative has been increasing sharply. The military collectives of units stationed in the Transcaucaus, in the Dniester region and the Baltic republics have been sending appeals, statements and even ultimatums to the president, the parliament and the Government of Russia.

The democrats believe that if such a situation persists it is not ruled out that groups of servicemen may soon announce the independent resolving of their problems. The intraparty council for military and political issues, which includes 16 parties and movements, has invited Russia's democratic forces to precisely determine their positions for getting out of the power crisis, to outline a unified program of action, and to set about implementing it without delay, ITAR-TASS reports.

Command Comments on Border With Baltics

LD1907170192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The command of Russia's Northwestern Border Troops Directorate has revealed its strategic plan for the guarding of Russia's borders with Estonia and Latvia. Here is a report from Denis Gurinskiy:

[Gurinskiy] General Konstantin Pleshko, commander of Russia's Northwestern Border Troops Directorate, revealed at a briefing in St. Petersburg that the time has come to transfer Russia's borders with Estonia and Latvia from administrative control to interstate. According to Gen. Pleshko, his directorate intends to create four border troops' subunits and two border flotillas along the 755-kilometer border with Estonia and Latvia by the end of this year. The Russian side will bring in approximately 500 border troops and set up operational headquarters in Kingissep, Pytalovo, and Pskov.

The plan for guarding Russia's borders with Estonia and Latvia which has been worked out by the Northwestern Border Troops Directorate also envisages the introduction of regular land and water patrols along the total length of the borders. The Russian-Estonian border river Narva will be patrolled on the Russian side by five border patrol vehicles and the waters of Chudskoye Lake by three permanent border tenders [plavuchaya statsionarnaya pogranichnaya baza]. The land borders will be patrolled along dozens of routes which will grouped around checkpoints. These will be set up first in the border towns with Estonia of Ivangorod and Pechory, and with Latvia in Pytalovo of Pskov Oblast.

Experts of the Northwestern Border Troops Directorate think that the final structure of the border zone with Estonia and Latvia will be concluded no earlier than December 1994. The border troops intend to reduce the illegal export of goods and raw materials from Russia to Estonia and Latvia to a minimum. The commander of Russia's Northwestern Border Troops Directorate revealed that the armed protection of the Russian border with Estonia and Latvia will not include the introduction of barbed wire.

Economic

Law Makes Ruble Convertibility 'Impossible'

LD1707192192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1207 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Pavel Karikov]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—The law on hard currency control adopted by the Russian parliament makes it impossible to ensure rouble convertibility in current operations, according to Russian deputy minister for foreign economic relations.

The government plans to make the rouble convertible in current transactions already this year, however the amendments introduced by parliament to the law make the implementation of the task impossible, Sergey Glazyev said at a press conference here. He attended a close-door seminar of the International Vienna Institute of Applied Analysis which ended in Moscow on Wednesday.

The Foreign Economic Ministry, however, intends to continue the course on providing rouble convertibility in current transactions and convince the parliament and the Central Bank to allow the move, Glazyev said.

Rutskoy on Recession as First Stage of Reform

LD1707200192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1804 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—A recession in the Russian economy can hardly be called the first stage of the reform, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy said in a TV interview broadcast by the "Moscow" TV channel on Friday [17 July].

Rutskoy voiced doubt as to whether the government has a well-considered plan of economic reform. "A reform cannot be a reform unless it is oriented to meet peoples' needs," Rutskoy said. "Otherwise it is merely an experiment with people," he added.

Rutskoy is seriously concerned over the atmosphere of anarchy which has emerged in Russia. "There is no power today," Rutskoy said. "Therefore, my formula is: liberal reforms, strong power," he pointed out.

Decision To Retain VAT Rate Applauded

LD1807225892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Andrey Nechayev, minister of the economy, has described the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's decision to retain the current main VAT rate of 28 percent until the end of this year and to lower it to 20 percent as of 1 January, 1993 as a pause which has made it possible to avert a catastrophe. In an interview with an RIA correspondent, Nechayev notes that such a decision suits the government and it is prepared to opt for a phased lowering of taxes at a rate which would not entail a too dangerous spiral of inflation.

Consequences of Energy Price Hike Discussed

LD2007084792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A trilateral commission has considered the economic consequences of the energy resources price hike. The total increase index in wholesale prices in Russia's national economy in the second half of this year will rise threefold, while retail prices on consumer goods will become approximately twice as high. This forecast appears in a report by the Russian Ministry of Economy on the socioeconomic consequences and measures aimed at social protection of the population in connection with the rise in prices of energy resources. The report has been prepared to be submitted at a meeting, which has started in Moscow, of the Russian Trilateral Commission on settling social and labor relations.

The Ministry of Economy believes that the main part of the budget revenue proceeds from the increased energy prices will be used to increase subsidies to the population, as well as to the communal housing system, passenger transport, agriculture, and budgetary expenses.

Supreme Soviet

IZVESTIYA Hearings Held

Observers Councils Proposed on Television, Radio

LD1707155392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Hearings on the Supreme Soviet's draft resolution on policy in the sphere of the media are now under way. The increased pressure by the press has not made any impression on the parliamentary leadership. Two hours ago during Supreme Soviet debates an almost unaltered draft was proposed. This draft provides, among other things, for the setting up of observers councils in television and radio. These councils would have immense cadre and financial powers. In the opinion of most journalists, this draft essentially means the introduction of censorship of the media.

As Ruslan Khasbulatov claims, this issue is by no means the most important. The delegates decided to allocate only 25 minutes for the general debate. True, standing orders were infringed and the Supreme Soviet debates have became protracted. They are continuing even now.

Nikolay Pavlov, speaking for the opposition, urged the deputies to vote in favor of the prepared document. According to him, this would put an end to the present bacchanalia in the press and in television and radio in particular. In the opinion of Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the parliamentary media committee, the draft decision runs counter to the law on the press. He described the observers' councils as censorship committees in disguise. His position is supported by Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian minister of information and the press, who describes the draft decision as a flimsy document.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the Russian Television and Radio Company, said that all this is just like the coup. One moment the deputies will wake up and see an observers' council in their place, he said.

Curiously, a proposal to adopt the decision as a basis did not pass. As a result, the deputies began to vote article by article. At the last moment Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed that the paragraph on observers' councils be removed. Matters have not yet reached the point where this issue is being put to a vote. Deputies are now discussing paragraph six of this decision.

Punishments for Media Abuses Envisaged, Debated

LD1707165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—A punishment for "abuse of the rights of journalist" and "for insulting top officials" is envisaged by the draft law on amendments to the Russian criminal code which is under discussion by the Russian parliament on Friday [17 July].

The document also envisages up to two years in prison for violating freedom of the press through censorship, limiting independence of editing boards in solving professional issues, and for illegal withdrawal or elimination of printed publications.

Five years of imprisonment are envisaged for disclosing state secrets, for appeals to seize power and and calls for use of force in order to change the constitutional system and violate the territorial integrity, for instigating ethnic, religious strife and social intolerance, as well as for advocating war.

Not all committees and commissions have already acquainted themselves with the draft presented by the head of the parliamentary committee on legislation, Mikhail Mityukov. Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov suggested that the draft might be published.

Proposal on Observers Councils Voted Down

LD1707165592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The Russian parliament voted down on Friday the proposal to create councils of observers for state TV and radio companies—the issue which journalists feared would violate freedom of the press.

A resolution adopted by the parliament envisages that a bill on the activities of television networks should be prepared for the fifth session.

Parliamentarians did not agree to limit the right of bodies of state power and management in creating their own publications.

The resolution envisages subsidies to mass media from the state budget. The amount of financial support will depend on the circulation of a publication.

Officials Comment on Mass Media Debate

LD1707210392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Video report by I. Zargaryan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian parliament finally debated the mass media on 17 July. To recap, during the past year parliamentarians have considerably progressed in their understanding of what the mass media actually is. What used to happen was that individual deputies would take offense at being shown asleep during the proceedings, but on the agenda now is control by the parliament of everything that is said about the ruling authorities on television and in the newspapers.

[Zargaryan] Deputies today concentrated their attention on the mass media. The relevant draft resolution published in the press came as a shock to journalists. In particular, for television it envisaged setting up an observers' council, whose recommendations would be binding. However, the document submitted to today's session was considerably reworked. As a result, according to Deputy (Zhigulin), it has become toothless but balanced. Top media officials still do not like it.

[Begin recording] [Mikhail Poltoranin, captioned as Russian minister of press and information] It will not provide any benefits. I advise you to remove the IZVESTIYA issue from the agenda, because we should not be disgracing ourselves right before the holidays. Thank you.

[Russian television chairman Oleg Poptsov] If you do not like me, then dismiss me. We do not need any supervisory bodies. Thank you. [end recording]

The document was not adopted as a basis for further work. It will have to be debated clause by clause. As a result, it was decided to postpone the establishment of an observers council until a relevant law is enacted.

Also today the deputies finally adopted a law on the Russian Federation's budget for 1992. The state budget deficit this year will amount to nearly 1 trillion [as heard] rubles. [video shows speakers, half empty chamber, Khasbulatov in chair with Yarov alongside]

[Announcer Yuriy Rostov] Fairly soon we will be marking the first anniversary of the August events that dramatically changed the correlation of forces in Russia. To a considerable extent, this period can be viewed as one of instability, close to anarchy. [video shows archive footage of Supreme Soviet] New people have come to the government, new structures are in place, and the state is being administered by new people. Many of them have lost their previous morals without acquiring new ones. In any event, now, at a time of internal administrative anarchy, the situation must not culminate in this, because we are already at the limit and the contours of our future society are being molded now, rather than six months ago when everything was shrouded in uncertainty. One of the possible contours of our future is tough censorship under the control of parliament. Today's debates are one of the frequent manifestations of parliament's desire for such control. This desire existed in the past and it will remain in the future, yet the nature of this control, as desired by many parliamentarians, clearly reflects the history of the relationship between television and the Supreme Soviet. Conflicts arose when our correspondents showed deputies asleep or badly dressed, or when they showed deputies lining up at special sales for them, or when they reported that the hotels for deputies were being used for their relatives. In other words, under debate was not all-encompassing strategic issues, but specific and detailed control over television.

There is, of course, another level to the conflict. Many parliamentarians consider that television gives greater reflection to the interests of the government than of the parliament; correspondingly, control over television is seen as a means of political struggle. Here again we encounter a horrifying inability to understand an axiom of democratic society: Neither government nor parliament, in the more or less democratic countries, can control what is said on television. The money used to pay for television comes not from the parliamentarians but—would you believe it—from the taxpayer.

IZVESTIYA To Be Daily of Parliament

LD1707163992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The Russian parliament adopted a resolution on Friday which changes the independent status of the most influential "IZVESTIYA" newspaper. It is to become a daily of the Russian parliament.

The parliament authorised the Justice Ministry to correspondingly change the registration documents of the newspaper, as "serious violations occurred during its registration in August 1991."

It was after the August coup that "IZVESTIYA", which was the newspaper of the Soviet parliament, gained independence.

Deputies Urged 'Not To Disgrace Themselves'

LD1707221392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Video report by N. Chernyshova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At last we have received the material on the course of the discussions of the question of the press and of IZVESTIYA by the Russian Supreme Soviet. Poltoranin, Russian minister for press and information, called on deputies today not to disgrace themselves in the discussion, especially regarding IZVESTIYA.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov said that deputies would decide whether or not to disgrace themselves. They did decide.

[Chernyshova] Yesterday's optimistic forecast by Boris Yeltsin that the hearings on the mass media in the Supreme Soviet would proceed smoothly was not confirmed. Obviously, even the president underestimated the wide possibilities and the annoyance felt by the parliamentarians against the press. [video shows Khasbulatov addressing deputies from the rostrum]

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] There are many newspapers—a great many—IZVESTIYA, PRAVDA, the evening newspapers, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMLETS, as well as ROSSISKAYA GAZETA. They are obviously.... [pauses] They are somehow under the Supreme Soviet. [as heard] [end recording]

The deputies discussed the other five points on the agenda for just three hours. They dedicated from 1500 until after 2000 to journalists. Even Ruslan Imranovich drew attention to such interest. Particular attacks were aimed at the television this time. The draft decision adopted proposes that a draft law on organizing activity in the sphere of television should be elaborated and presented at the fifth session. It provides for the speaker's address and the formation of a council of observers, which would essentially be a controlling body. It also proposes that the coverage of the activities of the supreme bodies of power should be put into order, but since the government did not express such intentions, this is read to mean the Supreme Soviet. In the opinion of the parliamentarians, it is precisely control over the mass media which is the main sign of democracy. This was also thought to be so in the years of stagnation. Mikhail Poltornanin called this resolution political and proposed that they refrain from further discussion. The parliament criticized the press minister, saying: Don't you tell us what to do! They then turned to the newspaper IZVESTIYA, which they had begun to lay claims on over the past few days. As a result, after endless debates about the legal competence of that act, parliament unexpectedly, but quickly, voted for transferring IZVESTIYA to the subordination of the Supreme Soviet and for the press ministry to prepare the relevant decisions. Democracy is continuing.

[Announcer Sergey Dorenko] Today 136 deputies voted in favor of adopting that decision, 23 voted against, and 12 abstained. [video shows Supreme Soviet in session, Khasbulatov chairing, Poltoranin on the rostrum addressing deputies, deputies in auditorium]

Press Minister Poltoranin on Decision

LD1707205292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The most important result of the Supreme Soviet's 17 July work is the examination of the media issue. Correspondent Nikolay Artymev interviewed Mikhail Poltoranin, vice premier and Russian minister for press and information:

[Begin recording] [Artymev] The decree has been adopted. How do you assess its significance?

[Poltoranin] I do not, because it is serious when the threat of a purely political, purely administrative decree hangs over us, threatening the introduction of censorship, regardless of whether it is described as an observation council or whatever, and when the whole of the press raises a hue and cry. When we found another version, a compromise, the committee on the media prepared an initial version and it was fine. We saw it. It brought up serious points about economic support and assistance to the media, about granting them most favored status, and so on. All of this was thrown out. We were left with an empty resolution containing nothing. There was no economic policy; it was half political, half economic. As often happens, a mountain gave birth to a mouse.

[Artymev] Mikhail Nikiforovich, the media issue and the examination of this issue by the Supreme Soviet has wide-ranging reverberations among the public. Now the battle is behind us. You have won.

[Poltoranin] How can you talk here about winning or losing? I think that it was a pointless battle with the press by certain groupings, certain individuals, by groups with a right-wing bias. I would like to say to you that no one should touch the press. There is no need to get involved with the press because it can stand up for itself. If anybody can, then the press can stand up for itself.

[Artymev] The particularly reactionary articles, as many saw them, were not included in the decree—I mean, the council of observers.

[Poltoranin] They did not even figure in the draft decree, because the press played its role. The committee on the media raised this. Here we must give Vyacheslav Ivanovich Bragin his due as chairman of the committee. He gamely stuck to his position, as did all his colleagues and the newspapers, magazines, and television. All of this did not happen by chance, nor did it happen in vain.

[Artymev] The press will now work on a legal basis and not under the supervision of any council of observers.

[Poltoranin] Yes, the press will operate on a legal basis, but nevertheless, as I said when I made my speech, we need to implement state policy as it is implemented in democratic countries. If you have freedom—and you do have this—and if you work well, then the state will do everything possible to encourage you in doing this good work; if you produce trash, then you need to take responsibility for this trash. In such cases we needed to adopt a second law on introducing amendments to the criminal code and the professional criminal code about administrative violations. This was done in the draft by people from the Ministry for the Press and Information. Members of the media committee prepared such a draft. It is another matter that it was emasculated by the removal of much that really was worthy of attention. Many things with which we were not familiar and which we had not seen were inserted; therefore, we were perhaps only authors of about 30 percent of what was there. Today the Supreme Soviet offered the press neither the carrot nor the stick. All this fuss has faded into nothing. It was a useless discussion. [end recording]

Resolution on Economic, Legal Support Adopted

OW1707191992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday [17 July] the Russian parliament adopted a resolution "On economic support and legal security of the mass media activity". It envisages introduction of changes to the decree "On mass media" in order to limit participation of state institutions of power and control in establishing mass media. The parliamentary committee on mass media and on relations with the public organizations is charged with the responsibility for presenting draft decrees on organization of activity in the sphere of TV broadcasting to the fifth session of the Supreme Soviet.

The resolution envisages that the volume of donations for the second half of 1992 from the republican budget to the printing editions is being established proportionally to their circulation and results of subscription.

Further on Yeltsin Remarks to Media Chiefs

PM1707160592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Boris Yeltsin: I Will Defend the Freedom and Dignity of the Russian Press"]

[Text] The Russian president's press service has circulated a report on B.N. Yeltsin's meeting with mass media chiefs. It says in particular: The need for an exchange of opinion about mutual relations between the press and the authorities was dictated by the well-known attempts to "put in order" the free Russian press, radio, and television, or in fact, the attempt to place the mass media under the control of one of the institutions of power.

Answering an appeal from leaders of the mass media to the Russian president to avert the now discernible recoil from the Russians' democratic achievements, Yeltsin expressed his clear and decisive support for the democratic press, and stated that, as guarantor of the Constitution and legality in the country, he will prevent a revision of the legislative guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of press and a return to the depressing times of censorship.

During the meeting with the president the mass media chiefs expressed their concern at the fact that the Russian Supreme Soviet is trying to take the press' most influential publications and television under its control, which may lead to a dangerous disturbance of the fragile balance between the legislative and executive powers.

The chief editors of the newspapers expressed their concern to the president about the fact that the frontal attack on the press is a reflection of the dangerous trend of revising the broader achievements of Russian democracy. The personal ambitions and intolerance of criticism on the part of individual leaders may find support with the most conservative and revanchist forces.

In his speech Yeltsin stated that Russia cannot find its way out of the crisis brought about by totalitarianism without active support from the democratic mass media. The president assured journalists that he will defend the freedom and dignity of Russia as he did in the days of August 1991, and this includes the freedom and dignity of the Russian press. Yeltsin spoke in favor of the idea that the Russian mass media assist in strengthening the nationwide solidarity so necessary to society in the name of the future democratic Russia, "in the name of the Russia we are acquiring," the president said.

Yeltsin Concerned About Session Results

LD1807131692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, 18 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin "has received with profound concern the results of the Supreme Soviet's examination of the mass news media and the newspaper IZVESTIYA". This is said in a statement made on 18 July by Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary.

The president is worried by the Supreme Soviet's desire to stifle critical analysis of its own activity, the press secretary stressed. He regrets the attempt to change the independent status of IZVESTIYA newspaper, considered to be one of the most respected newspapers—one that has consistently supported the course of democratic transformation of Russian society.

"As a guarantee of the Constitution and of the people's democratic gains, the president of Russia will undertake all the necessary measures in the framework of the Constitution and Law of the Press to protect the mass news media," the press secretary's statement says.

Information Ministry Appeals Ruling on 20 Jul

LD2007095992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0854 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The Russian Information Ministry decided on Monday [20 July] to appeal to the Constitutional Court against the parliamentary decision to change the independent status of the most influential "IZVESTIYA" daily.

On Friday the Russian Parliament ruled that "IZVESTIYA" becomes its newspaper and authorised the ministry to re-register the "IZVESTIYA" which used to be a newspaper of the Soviet parliament but gained independence after the August coup.

The juridical expertise of the parliamentary resolution showed its legal groundlessness, the ministry said, adding it will ask the constitutional court to probe the legality of the decision.

IZVESTIYA's Financial Status Detailed

PM1707151792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "Our First Year of Independence"]

[Text] It is for the readers from the new independent states formed in place of the USSR to judge the contents of the newspaper IZVESTIYA which we put out somewhat less than a year after 23 August of last year, when the paper became independent. All I want to talk about is how and for what purpose we have used and continue to use our independence.

During all this time we considered and continue to consider that one main task is to preserve the Commonwealth's common news area by striving not to serve parties and soviets, but the interests of millions of readers in all the CIS states, and satisfy their demand for objective news.

Continuing to work in what is to this day a state enterprise (property relationships renouncing the foundation of IZVESTIYA by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium have not changed inasmuch as the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium was not the owner of either the publishing house or the newspaper), and using those same resources and production infrastructure which IZVESTIYA always had at its disposal, we have tried and are trying to do everything to preserve for the newspaper the role of a reliable and independent source of information and analysis.

This is not such a simple task because in the wake of political independence there ensued full economic responsibility for the newspaper's publication. From 1 January of this year we have been publishing this newspaper only on the money we are earning ourselves without receiving a ruble or a cent from the government. An exception to this is the 57 million rubles [R] which we, like hundreds of other publicatons, received from the Ministry of the Press during the first six months of the year as partial compensation for the rise in distribution and paper prices.

Having found ourselves, like all mass circulation publications, in a situation where each number began to make great losses, IZVESTIYA decided not to break its contract with its subscribers who last year paid a symbolic price for the paper by present standards of R29 plus a few kopeks. In order to meet these obligations the editorial office has this year spent about R80 million of its advertising revenue, R8 million of profit from its supplements, all income from the newspaper's retail sales, as well as R81 million collected last year from subscriptions. In all IZVESTIYA has put R225 million into production and distribution this year (together with the above-mentioned money from the Ministry of the Press). Today IZVESTIYA is in actual fact paying subscribers more than R2 for each issue.

The maintenance of a network of correspondents in the Commonwealth countries and, in particular, more distant foreign parts—in order to have firsthand information and report it to our readers—is achieved today with great effort. For this we pay a significant proportion of what we are earning insofar as maintaining and communicating with correspondent offices in the CIS are becoming more and more expensive, and the financing of the network of foreign correspondents from the centralized hard currency budget has been halted completely. The editorial office is paying out about $700,000 this year from hard currency advertising earnings which it could with pleasure spend on obtaining consumer goods for staffers or on other pleasurable items.

While continuing to pay independently for the work of our foreign correspondents the editorial office has already spent $100,000 this year on developing the publishing house's production base—and $560,000 for these purposes last year—from its hard currency earnings.

We have placed the incomes of the editorial office staffers last of all, and they are today on average lower than those of journalists on many other publications; the fees here are, I suppose, the lowest paid by any of the well-known newspapers.

Yet despite all this, people are trying to accuse IZVESTIYA of having allegedly seized IZVESTIYA's property, which was created specifically for IZVESTIYA and with its direct participation. The old editorial building on Pushkin Square was built in the 1920's from advertising revenue. Of the R683 million gross profit made by the IZVESTIYA combine over the 15 years from 1977 to 1991, from which money was deducted to build the new editorial building and a number of other premises, R120 million were contributed by the newspaper—that is, by editorial office staffers many of whom work here to this day and against whom parliament intends to bring a suit "for seizing state property."

It is also not easy for IZVESTIYA to carry out its obligations to its readers because the newspaper, which is widely known and has an immense readership, has always been a tidbit for political forces and authorities at various levels who find it difficult to resist the temptation to use it in their own interests, or—even better—control it fully. The Russian parliament's leadership is essentially striving for this as regards IZVESTIYA by making successor claims to the publishing house's property which its predecessor, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, did not own.

IZVESTIYA Collective Voices Objections

PM1707140292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by Nikolay Andreyev: "Meeting of Editorial Collective: Politicians Come and Go, But IZVESTIYA Remains"]

[Text] A meeting of the collective was held at IZVESTIYA on 14 July at which a single issue was discussed: What to do about the fact that our newspaper figures as an item on the Russian Supreme Soviet agenda. The meeting was also attended by Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of a chamber of the Russian parliament; Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on the Mass Media; and Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian press minister.

The meeting began with a short report delivered by IZVESTIYA Chief Editor I. Golembiovskiy, who briefed the editorial office on what had happened at the 13 July Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium session. N. Ryabov then took the floor and reported that he had talked with Ruslan Khasbulatov, who asked him to convey to the IZVESTIYA staff that they should not worry either about the future of IZVESTIYA or their own future in the sense of losing their jobs. Ryabov insisted that the adoption of the resolution on IZVESTIYA by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is nothing more than a formality: As the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium is the legal successor to the similar, now-disbanded union body, succession also requires to be restored in respect of IZVESTIYA, that is, the IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV USSR which appeared in preputsch times has to be reconstituted. True, Ryabov immediately acknowledged: "Every sensible person understands that such a situation is unnatural and irrational, it cannot last long, and in general it is better not to allow this to become the practice in political life."

However, an absurd situation is beginning to develop and every sensible person understands that the point here is not at all that the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the speaker of parliament have resolved to restore legality that has formally been violated. The objective of the situation which has developed around IZVESTIYA is quite different. As M. Poltoranin said: "The issue is like this: Either IZVESTIYA 'bows down' before the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium or..." There are a host of options here. And what is involved is turning IZVESTIYA into a "tame" organ. Moreover, the newspaper adopts an independent stance and enjoys authority in Russia, the CIS countries, and the world. It is clear that ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is unable to aspire in even a small way to this role. At the same time certain forces in parliament (Poltoranin described them as the readers of DEN, PRAVDA, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA) who do not like the political thrust of IZVESTIYA would like to exact ideological revenge on IZVESTIYA and dictate its own rules of the game to it.

Vyacheslav Bragin said that he had not seen the draft resolution on IZVESTIYA until the Supreme Soviet Presidium session. In his opinion, the question has not been thought through at all; documents have not been prepared and it was inspired by those forces which would like to upset the fragile political balance in Russia. Bragin also considers: "This is not a legal question, nor is it a question of ownership; it is a political question. And the following viewpoint has repeatedly been articulated to the Supreme Soviet leadership by our committee: This issue could pose a serious test to the Supreme Soviet, and the authority of the Supreme Soviet leadership will also be tested."

What, judging by the Supreme Soviet's draft resolution, appears obvious to its drafters actually looks quite different if you examine the documents IZVESTIYA has at its disposal. The speech by Ivan Laptev, chairman of the IZVESTIYA concern, was devoted to this topic: Laptev adduced documentary evidence that the newspaper was never the official press organ of either the USSR Supreme Soviet or its presidium. They were never in charge of its property or its budget, nor did they determine the newspaper's political line or interfere in staffing policy; everything was decided at the CPSU Central Committee. Laptev also introduced clarity on the basis of documents concerning the property of the IZVESTIYA concern.

The following question also arose at the assembly: And how will the parliamentary leaders of the other CIS countries regard the Russian parliament's claims to take over IZVESTIYA? They, for example, reject Russia's exclusive right to the Ostankino Television and Radio Company. IZVESTIYA has a very large share of subscribers outside Russia. The following question was also raised: If the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium insists on its rights as legal successor and inheritor of the historically long-vanished Union organ, then the journalist collective is entitled to claim precisely those same rights to IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR, since it declares itself in the editorial statutes as the successor to that vanished publication.

We will conclude by citing words spoken at the meeting: "Politicians come and go, but IZVESTIYA remains." These words, incidentally, pleased Ryabov—he was in full agrement with them. His opinion as to how to get out of the present situation was expressed as follows: "I cannot tolerate the idea that two Russian newspapers (clearly he meant two IZVESTIYA newspapers—N.A.) exist on the territory of the Russian Federation... There is no fatal inevitability which dictates that, if such a project is launched and the leadership intends to go through with it, it will be implemented without fail in the manner and at the time envisaged... There is no need to hurry, let us weigh up again all the factual and formal bases and find a formula... The majority of deputies and I personally—I can speak with certainty here—never did consider that IZVESTIYA would be a Presidium organ, nor do they. There is no such idea. None."

You get the impression that this whole action against IZVESTIYA was mounted to test the resilience of the editorial collective: Would it split the collective? Suppose the initiative by parliament's leadership provokes a mutiny by an ambitious group? The speeches at the meeting and the unanimously (this term from the times of stagnation has to be employed) adopted resolution reject any attempts to subordinate IZVESTIYA to anyone or to anything except the freedom to inform society about what is happening in the world. The resolution says: "We regard the steps taken by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium to effectively eliminate the present IZVESTIYA newspaper as an attack on glasnost and as a political step only camouflaged by legal trappings." The legal aspect of the situation is deemed untenable and the resolution accordingly ends as follows: "Given the aforementioned, we regard as invalid the discussion of this question at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session."

Editorial Collegium Stresses 'Responsibility'

PM1707170892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Statement by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Editorial Collegium: "Freedom of Speech: Rights and Responsibilities"]

[Text] The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial collegium held a session at which it examined the question of the newspaper's position in connection with the debate on the mass media that has flared up recently. This was prompted, in particular, by the confrontation between the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—our newspaper is one of its publications—and several of the mass media, first and foremost the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

It is well known that relations between parliament and the mass media deteriorated on the eve of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies and during the Congress' work. At that time in certain newspapers and television programs the Congress, the Supreme Soviet, its chairman, and representative authorities in general, were subjected not merely to criticism, which would have been understandable and useful, but to obstruction. Several members of the mass media, playing on the controversies between parliament and the government, artificially exaggerated the differences between their views of the reforms that are proceeding with difficulty in Russia and exacerbated the confrontation between the authorities.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA did not support this stance on the part of its colleagues. We did not do this on the grounds that we belong to the Supreme Soviet, as is sometimes suggested; it was out of a sense of responsibility for preserving political stability in the country. We acted on the basis that any democratic transformations in Russia, with its genetic capacity for ending up with a "little father"-czar or a tyrant, will run aground if there is any disruption of the balance of powers—legislative, executive, and judicial. We also acted on the basis that neither the legislative, nor the executive, nor the judicial powers were fully realizing their potential or exercising their powers, so that there was no need to set them against each other. Moreover, we acted on the basis that an increase in confrontation between the president (and government) and the Supreme Soviet is in the interests of ambitious or simply dishonorable politicians, and naturally we did not want to be exploited for unseemly purposes.

In the spring of this year, that is, during the Congress, in the course of an all-out condemnation of the representative power, there were only a few voices trying to come to its defense, and thus—we are convinced of this—to the defense of democracy. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's voice was among them.

But what twists and turns history takes! We were almost the only opposition newspaper to defend the new Russian leadership from the very first days of its own existence. Our colleagues must remember that time, and they must remember how some of us behaved then. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA was one of the few to wholeheartedly support and promote the election victory of the first Russian president, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. In August last year, along with many others (but not all), we were on the list of banned newspapers.

And now they are once again trying to make out that we are an opposition newspaper, no less! Opposition to whom?! To the course of progressive democratic transformations?

Naturally, we do not idealize the legislature. It has many faces. There are terrible faces and comic faces. But let us not forget that it was this Congress that elected an outcast from the party and the center to be chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. It was this Congress that recommended him and helped him to become president. It was this Congress that renewed the Constitution and adopted laws making it possible to implement profound political and economic reforms. It was this Congress that voluntarily handed over many of its own functions to the president in order to strengthen the executive power and untie its hands.

Now for a more detailed examination of the causes and mainsprings of the conflict as seen and assessed by us, the members of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial collegium.

When someone's work is on show from morning to night, under the keen eye of the close-up lens, when that difficult work requires strong mental and spiritual effort, then the task of those who report it and show it on screen is, in our view, to show and report it objectively. Not to pick out individual cases, blunders, or emotional outbursts, but to convey to society the essence of what is happening. This is necessary, in our opinion, not in order to hide anything. If you put the emphasis on weaknesses and hitches, this has a depressing effect on anyone. Why stir up trouble and play on taut psychological strings? After all, the main result of the legislatures's activity is laws. And it would be logical to analyze a particular law, its strong and weak points, and whether it "works" for the reforms or holds them back. Thorough, professional analysis is the very thing that is patently lacking in the newspapers, ours included. Yet any "hot" news is immediately put on the front page. Of course, this annoys deputies, they regard this attitude to them as unjust. And in human terms, you can understand that.

There are people in the legislature who were glad to take advantage of the conflict that broke out in order to lean on the press: some on the "right-wing" press, others on the "left-wing." All these "supervisory councils," even if you put a gilded frame round them, mean only one thing: the rebirth of censorship. We are convinced that journalists, or at least the majority of them, will never agree to such restrictions on freedom of speech. And if anyone tries to impose restrictions not stipulated by the law, it will mean the end of his political career.

A brief word about IZVESTIYA... It would be madness to try to "close" that newspaper. IZVESTIYA has a rich and glorious past and will, we hope, have an equally significant future. In our view, the only question mark is over the fact that IZVESTIYA has put itself in special, privileged conditions. The newspaper, in effect, owns a state enterprise (a printing plant, a huge garage, premises, leisure homes, and so forth), and this safeguards its financial position, which differs radically from other editorial offices. All the other newspapers are in the relationship of clients to the publishing houses, and pay for the lease of premises, printing services, transport, communications, and dispatch. It is this link between IZVESTIYA and the publishing house that enabled a private newspaper—as IZVESTIYA became after its reregistration—to make use of state property free of charge and make a profit in the interests of private individuals.

So our colleagues have no reason to get indignant and make a fuss. And is it honorable to take advantage of your unhampered ability to address society daily, in order to mislead it? Until the last moment IZVESTIYA concealed the fact that it had been allocated a subsidy in excess of 50 million rubles, although it was only too happy to write at length about similar assistance to other newspapers.

Freedom of speech is one of the substantial gains of democratic Russia. Let us journalists use the freedom we have gained for honorable purposes.

[Signed] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Editorial Collegium.

Khasbulatov Stand on Freedom of Press Viewed

PM1707141192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 1

["Our Commentary" by Lyubov Tsukanova under "Fourth Estate" rubric: "Dosimeter for the Press"]

[Text] "All rulers fear books, journals, and newspapers—that is, free speech and freedom of thought, which do not fit into the framework of their opinions or their ideology," Ruslan Khasbulatov wrote in his book "The Bureaucratic State" [Byurokraticheskoye gosudarstvo] (Moscow, 1991, page 47). "We must not allow ourselves to be intimidated by either the right or the left," he stated at a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium session last Monday [13 July], suggesting that thought be given to which articles of the Law on the Press should be "temporarily suspended" and which should be tightened up.

As I recall, this is not the first contradiction between theory and practice and not the first attempt to tame the press, which cast aside all restraint during the years of "perestroyka and glasnost." Something similar was also proposed by both Gorbachev and the unforgettable Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov, Khasbulatov's Union colleague. Do you recall the time when, against the background of the Union parliament, the Russian parliament seemed to be the center of mutinous freethinking? This was the period of struggle for Russia's sovereignty, and at that time the press was an ally of the Russian authorities. But now the "rulers" feel so self-sufficient that they no longer need free speech.

There are several new aspects to the current attempts to shorten the mass media's tongue. Insofar as even in parliament everybody has realized that today ownership is power, it is no sin and not even shameful to declare oneself the "successor" to Lukyanov's Supreme Soviet Presidium in order to divest bad-news IZVESTIYA of its publishing house. It does not matter that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet pays lip service to the destatization of ownership, while in practice (in this instance) it favors its return to the state, that is, as Professor Khasbulatov has taught us, to the ownership of a bureaucrat. There is another curious thing: After the August events a multitude of party newspapers and publishing houses changed their founders without asking them, and they included such monsters as PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. However, the legality of these actions was questioned only in IZVESTIYA's case. Is that not because "we do not like it"?

"It should be noted that the repressions and terror in our country started with persecutions of and bans on the press and free publications, and with censorship." ("The Bureaucratic State," page 48). The instruction to the Ministry of the Press to refuse to incorporate, and to carry out the reregistration of, those democratic (mainly local) publications which have appeared in recent years could lead, first, to the closure or the quiet withering away of a considerable proportion of them and, second, to an upsurge of antidemocratic sentiments and actions: Our local soviets are, to put it mildly, no more progressive than the Supreme Soviet. Nobody will pass up the chance to get even with the newspapers, especially as the precedent has been set in Moscow, which has always been a guiding light in reaction for local chiefs. "The brakes are being put on reform at local level," Russian Federation deputies have been saying loud and long. It must be remembered that the measures on state suppression of the press will play right into the hands of those "brakes" which, on the pretext of strengthening state authority, are rushing to get rid of even such an ineffective means of social control as independent newspapers. And who will then prevent the isolation of those concerned citizens who, under the new Law on the Protection of the Organs of State Control, will "cause harm" by their own unbridled faultfinding? So the notion about "repressions and terror" is not so very hypothetical.

Finally, about the political consequences of those decisions which the speaker of parliament is persistently and consistently trying to steer through parliament. The claim that it does not matter to him what DEN [The Day] and what NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA do is correct only to the extent that, in reality, most of parliament and its leadership want no criticism whatsoever. But in fact, if we start by asking who specifically is threatened by the measures proposed by parliament (IZVESTIYA, Ostankino, and so on), first and foremost criticism is not wanted from the public's democratic wing. And if parliament still tries to make the Law on the Press worse, it will thereby not only compromise itself in the eyes of the thinking section of the population but objectively it will also support the Ostankino loudmouths, who only ostensibly wanted to deprive journalists of the right to carry out their professional duty freely, whereas in essence they were coming out against democracy as such.

Do the parliamentarians have enough sense to think out their actions in advance, if only one step ahead? Let R.I. Khasbulatov's justified words from the aforementioned book be a warning to them: "It is not easy to be true to yours theoretical views when you become the possessor of great political power...."

Parliament 'Finished' After Newspaper Vote

PM1707203092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by R. Zaripov, S. Sokolov: "The End of 'The News'"]

[Text] As is known, flags do not fall down, they are hauled. Ruslan Khasbulatov tried to make a reality of Lukyanov's dream of making the newspaper IZVESTIYA the handmaiden of the Supreme Soviet. Quite unabashed, he put to the vote the question of a de facto change in the newspaper's status, and the deputies, without having copies of the draft resolution in front of them, voted on the nod for "IZVESTIYA—Newspaper of the Soviets of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation."

In legal terminology, a change in a newspaper's status means its closure. No more and no less. It is another matter that the newspaper's collective will not, of course, accept this vote and will not recognize its legality (136 deputies voted in favor, 23 against, and 12 abstained). Russian Federation Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin answered your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent's question with undisguised irony:

"Imagine that the Supreme Soviet voted to rename Washington Ruslangrad. What then? Do you think Bush would be signing a document on the name change the next day? Parliament today is rather like a lamp. The executive switches it on and off whenever it wants. Because the press and the executive power operate, thank God, in contact with one another. There was talk of switching off this chandelier. But now the little lamps have burned themselves out with excess tension, so there is no need to switch anything off. Politically, parliament is finished...."

So whose death occurred 17 July: IZVESTIYA's or parliament's? Russian President Yeltsin called it a manifestation of weakness for a leader to attack the mass media and not be able to take criticism from outside. However hard Khasbulatov tried to put a good face on it, emotions came to the surface: "The newspaper IZVESTIYA is waging a war on the Supreme Soviet and driving a wedge between parliament and the president." The deputies' attempts "not to appear ridiculous" were also, frankly, not a success. The planned massive blow against the mass media failed, and was so much like an unrehearsed attack that even the chairman was nonplussed: "Something's not quite right here." The deputies did not quite pick up their "cue" from Khasbulatov. Indeed, Deputy Veremchuk actually proposed that only 25 minutes be allowed for discussing the question of the press: "We still have before us a package of documents on the North."

As a result, the lines concerning supervisory councils for state television and radio companies were dropped from the Supreme Soviet resolution "On Economic Support and Legal Provision for the Activity of the Mass Media." True, in accordance with the chairman's proposal, in the fall the deputies are to make amendments to the criminal and administrative codes relating to the activity of the mass media. Thus, for instance, it is proposed to introduce liability for "concealing information of public significance," although nobody could explain what that might be.

At the last moment, the editorial office received from reliable sources a copy of the results of the vote on the resolution on the newspaper IZVESTIYA. It appears from this document that Sergey Shakhray and Oleg Rumyantsev, who were not present at the session, voted in favor. Comment is superfluous.

Support Voiced for IZVESTIYA Reported

PM2007102492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Roundup of views expressed by "parties, social and professional organizations, politicians, and citizens": "In Defense of Freedom of Speech"]

[Text] Parties, social and professional organizations, politicians, and citizens are expressing their attitude to the intention of certain Russian Supreme Soviet deputies to take the mass media under their own control.

On 16 July, at a regular session of the "Democratic Russia" movement's Coordinating Council, a statement was adopted on the impermissibility of restricting the freedom of the mass media.

"The Coordinating Council of the 'Democratic Russia' movement expresses support for the independent mass media which have come out against attempts by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet leadership to establish control over state television and curb the disobedient IZVESTIYA. Just like the Union parliament under A. Lukyanov, the Supreme Soviet leadership headed by R. Khasbulatov is not satisfied with the extent of its influence over the mass media and the molding of public opinion in the country. The Russian Supreme Soviet chairman and Presidium have not only failed to learn any lessons from the experience of the pre-August Union leadership, but are actually repeating its mistakes, using the very same methods of putting pressure on the democratic mass media and showing the very same disregard for the constitutionally enshrined freedom of speech and the press.

"The Coordinating Council believes that no one, not even the Supreme Soviet or its Presidium, is entitled to adopt resolutions contrary to the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation. If the drafts drawn up with the participation of the Supreme Soviet leadership are adopted, we will submit a petition to the Constitutional Court requesting that it investigate the constitutionality of these normative acts."

The Political Council of the Republican Party of the Russian Federation [RPRF] adopted a statement "On the Freedom of the Mass Media":

"In recent days the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium has taken a number of steps objectively aimed at restricting freedom of information and establishing bureaucratic financial and ideological control over the mass media....

"A dangerous precedent is being created, which could be taken up countrywide by local organs of both representative and executive power....

"Obviously these steps cannot be justified by the need to extend information opportunities for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, which is already the founder of a number of mass media organs. This means that an attempt is being made to restrict the volume of objective information, including information on the activities of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and its Presidium; an attempt to hush up the inadequate effectiveness of the present legislative organs, which have failed to adopt documents of critical importance for the development of the reforms in Russia (in particular, documents establishing the right of private ownership of land, a law on bankruptcy, and many more).

"The RPRF Political Council roundly condemns these steps by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium. The independent and state-owned mass media, the entire body of journalists, and the IZVESTIYA collective, who uphold the right of citizens of Russia to independent and objective information, can always count on the support of the RPRF, Republican people's deputies, and regional party organizations."

The editorial office has received a telegram from Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, saying:

"I express support for the IZVESTIYA collective in their desire to defend the publication's democratic orientation. The Moldovan people value highly the newspaper's contribution to the development of the principles of glasnost and freedom of speech and its courage in the struggle against totalitarianism, courage which was manifested particularly during the days of the August putsch. I am sure that only by joint efforts will we be able to overcome the growing threat of Red-Brown revanche. I express solidarity with the stance of President Boris Yeltsin and the democratic section of the Russian parliament in support of IZVESTIYA and the other mass media."

Kuanysh Sultanov, minister of the press and mass media of the Republic of Kazakhstan, stated:

"It is a very good thing that IZVESTIYA deemed it necessary to acquaint readers in full with all the material relating to the situation that has arisen around the newspaper. I have studied this material carefully, and personally I have the impression that the Russian parliament has raised a storm in a teacup—once again, arrogance has prevailed over common sense. As for the legal succession, although IZVESTIYA is published on Russian territory, in no way is it an exclusively Russian asset—it is awaited and read throughout the CIS information area. Also, the Russian Supreme Soviet is not the sole heir to the USSR Supreme Soviet; all 15 parliaments of the former Union are also its heirs. To place the newspaper under the subordination of any one of them today is to violate the rights of the others. Clearly, it is by preserving its independent status that IZVESTIYA can remain a single common publication for all the Commonwealth states..."

The editorial office has also received a statement from Igor Pisarskiy, secretary of the Russian Association of Advertisers:

"...The organizing committee of the Russian Association of Advertisers feels it cannot remain an impartial onlooker to attempts to establish strict control over the activities of the mass media. The plan to create some kind of 'supervisory council' regulating the activity of the mass media means nothing less than a return to the era of ideological censorship. It is particularly alarming that the most prestigious and widely read publications are the first to come under ideological pressure. Today it is IZVESTIYA. Who will be next?

"Officially approved information only amounts to the absence of guarantees of full and objective information. Controlled freedom of the press is the mere semblance of real freedom.

"The Russian Association of Advertisers represents the interests of the country's major business structures. We, like all the Russian public, are worried about the possibility of state institutions springing up which have the right to influence the information dissemination process, and thus the molding of public opinion.

"It is true that freedom is not the absence of laws and regulations, but first and foremost the guaranteeing of rights. One of these is the right to full and objective information. A threat to this right is a threat to democracy as a whole. Gentlemen, consider the consequences of this step."

"To support IZVESTIYA is the imperative of the time," in the view of Academician N. Pokrovskiy of the Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian Department History Institute.

"Although my cooperation with IZVESTIYA was not a success (the editorial undeservedly rejected important materials)," the academician reports, "nonetheless I believe that principled support for the present IZVESTIYA line is extremely important. The attempt to put the press under the control of strict censorship does not meet the interests of our society as a whole."

A statement "On the Mass Media Situation" was also issued by the "New Russia" bloc of political parties.

Democracy, it notes, has not yet come to power, as is convincingly confirmed by the situation that has arisen today over the mass media in the Russian Federation.

"The unconstitutional actions undertaken in recent days by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium and directed against the newspaper IZVESTIYA showed particularly clearly the overall thrust of the actions of certain circles in the present Russian leadership aimed at stifling glasnost.

"The 'New Russia' bloc of political parties deems it necessary to state: The trend, common to both the government and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, to tackle pressing questions in society by strong-arm tactics—the ban on elections until 1 December 1993, the desire to take the mass media under total control—indicates that the democratic gains achieved by society in recent years are again under threat.

"There can only be one way out of this situation—the deepening of democratic transformations...

"In the event of further steps to stifle freedom of speech, the 'New Russia' bloc of parties will be forced to reconsider its attitude toward the Russian Federation leadership.

[Signed] "The Russian Social-Liberal Party, the Social-Liberal Association of the Russian Federation, the Social Democratic Party of Russia, the 'Young Russia' Union, the People's Party of Russia, the Peasants' Party of Russia."

From Mazkhabsho Mukhabatshoyev, chief editor of the newspaper DZHUMKHURIAT (REPUBLIC), Dushanbe:

"I think it is true to say that many generations of journalists learned from IZVESTIYA their professional skill, the organization of the newspaper business, and how to be politically balanced. It was from IZVESTIYA that they learned democracy, too... To shut the mouth of this most prestigious newspaper today is to strike a cruel blow against the minds of a huge number of editorial collectives... I would venture to remind the Russian parliament: Maybe it is, in the end, better and more useful to listen to what the people say about you, esteemed deputies, in the free press, than to debase, with the help of compliant media organs and votes, your own activity, and ultimately your own honor and dignity. God knows, it's a serious matter."

Other Issues

New Peacekeeping Battalion to FRY Approved

LD1707185292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1706 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—The Russian parliament agreed on Friday [17 July] to send a 400-men strong additional peacekeeping battalion to Yugoslavia to join the UN forces there.

The battalion is to consist of volunteers.

Decision on Closed Territories Detailed

LD1707221592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a law on closed administrative territorial formations yesterday [14 July]. According to this document, a closed territory is an administrative unit where industrial enterprises involved in research and development, production, storage, and use of weapons of mass destruction are located, as well as those processing radioactive and other materials, as well as military and other sites.

Yeltsin Urges Better Coordination, Cooperation

LD1707164792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Russian legislation considerably lags behind reforms and the slowness negatively affects the process of transformations, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told coordinators of parliamentary groups on Friday [17 July], according to his spokesman.

Only seven out of 29 bills submitted by the president to parliament were adopted, Vyacheslav Kostikov told reporters.

He added Yeltsin urged the deputies to better coordinate the activities of legislative and executive authorities.

The president also stressed that "positive dynamics of political and economic cooperation in the Commonwealth" has taken shape.

Yeltsin intends to actively participate in the work of the Constitutional Commission and will chair its next meeting, according to Kostikov.

1992 Budget Approved on 17 Jul

LD1707145392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1401 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul—On 17 July the Russian Parliament approved the budget of the Russian Federation for 1992, presented by the Russian Government. It envisages expenditures totaling 3,319,200,000 rubles [R], including the current expenditure budget of R2,540,700,000, and the development budget of R778.5 billion, on the basis of a forecast revenue of R2,369,200,000, and a deficit ceiling of R950.1 billion.

It was decided to direct, in 1992, R90.6 billion of the revenue from foreign credits granted to Russia toward partially clearing the deficit of the republican budget of the Russian Federation.

A proposal from the permanent commissions of the chambers and from the committees of the Supreme Soviet of Russia was adopted that provides for increasing the expenditure from the republican budget of the Russian Federation for 1992 by R334.2 billion, including the current expenditure budget by R130.3 billion, and the development budget by R203.9 billion by additionally mobilizing revenue into the budgetary system of the Russian Federation during its implementation.

Three-Year Economic Program Adopted

LD1707160792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Until 1995 Russia will annually need at least five billion U.S. dollars in investments. The Russian Government adopted on Friday [17 July] a corresponding three-year programme to achieve the goal.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin will most evidently be in charge of implementing the programme which is to be developed into a concrete plan. He will head a special committee coordinating investment activities of Russian ministries and departments.

The first stage of the programme, which is to last until the end of 1992, is to enact legislation for national and foreign investments and to improve taxes and customs duties.

The second stage covering the 1993-94 period is to provide for a massive influx of investments through large-scale privatisation and through agreements with the international agency on guarantees for investments, envisaging legal protection of foreign capital in Russia.

If Russia gets the five billion dollars they will comprise 18 per cent of capital investments in 1995, it was stressed at a meeting of the government collegium chaired by Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. The upper limit of necessary foreign investments in 1993 was estimated at 17-20 billion dollars. The volume of foreign investments reached 2 billion dollars for the past five years with the appearance of the first joint ventures.

Also on Friday the government adopted a resolution obliging all enterprises to pay for environmental pollution.

The government discussed the problem of migration which is becoming a burning one in the country. Ethnic problems force people to emigrate from practically all former Soviet republics. The migration problem concerns 25 million Russians and four million people of other nationalities living in Russia.

The government discussed a number of legal and economic measures to improve the work of the Russian migration service.

Highlights of 17 Jul Proceedings Televised

LD1707220192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1934 GMT on 17 July carries a 80-minute edition of the program "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session" featuring highlights of the Russian Supreme Soviet session in Moscow.

The narrator begins by noting the agenda. The first subject was amendments to a law on land. Discussion on this was deferred. The possibility of early retirement for servicemen was then discussed and agreed.

A recording of Deputy Yarov on a draft decision on Estonian human rights is broadcast, followed by a statement on Baltic human rights. The draft decision has been circulated among deputies, which Yarov reads. He notes that Russians are losing their jobs and are subject to psychological pressure in the Baltic states. The human rights situation there continues to worsen.

A recording of the debate on the media follows. Deputy (Zhigulin) gives background on the work by a commission on the Supreme Soviet draft decision on policy in the sphere of the media. He argues in favor of councils of observers for television and radio. He then fields questions from the floor. Bragin, chairman of the parliament's media committee, then speaks against the decision. Nikolay Pavlov, speaking for the opposition, argues for the decision. He says that France has television observers' councils, so Russia should have them. Valeriy Gerasimov complains from the rostrum that there have been practically no serious analytical articles in the newspapers on the work of the Supreme Soviet committees and commissions in the last year. However, the fourth estate should not be dictated to, but helped.

Mikhail Poltoranin, minister of information and the press, says that the press should be treated like any other producer. If it produces a useful product, it should be assisted. However, a framework must be set up to prevent excesses. He mentions SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and DEN. Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov interrupts to add IZVESTIYA and other newspapers. It is noted that newspapers are subsidized by the ministry according to the size of their readership. Poltoranin appeals for the IZVESTIYA issue to be removed from the agenda. Khasbulatov rejects this suggestion.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of Russian television, speaks against a council of observers because this places politics above professionalism. The narrator then notes that the idea of a council of observers was rejected by the session.

Khasbulatov is heard to note that when he was in Canada they had observers' councils. He says that this is only the first stage of the process.

Khasbulatov then moves on to a request by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on behalf of the UN secretary general for an additional Russian contingent in Yugoslavia. Deputy Churkin takes the floor to note that the United Nations values the contributions of the Russian battalion in Yugoslavia. The general secretary has asked for another Russian battalion of up to 400 men, paid for, as previously, by the United Nations, in order to ensure aid for Bosnia- Hercegovina.

Khasbulatov says that the latest Supreme Soviet session since the Congress has been "unusually productive". He gives figures for decisions and notes the laws discussed and adopted.

Defense Ministry's Budget Requests Slashed

PM1707194092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by parliamentary correspondents Oleg Odnokolenko, Vladimir Yermolin: "Expenditure on Army Increased, But..."]

[Text] Parliamentarians were discussing the budget for 1992 until late in the evening of 16 July. They examined about 80 amendments to the draft submitted by the parliamentary Commission on the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices. The content of the 51st amendment, submitted for the parliamentarians' consideration by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Questions of Defense and Security, was devoted to increasing the expenditure on the maintenance of the Russian Armed Forces.

Let us remind you that initially the Defense Ministry received 682 billion rubles [R] from the state budget. But in the light of the introduction of coefficients, the increase in payments based on military rank, and so forth, the Defense Ministry requested something like an additional 350 billion. The parliamentary Committee on Questions of Defense and Security agreed to support the military men's request to the tune of 67 billion. By agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, it was proposed to request R21 billion for servicemen's wages, 11.6 billion for the payment of pensions, and 34.4 billion for capital construction. This proposal was defended in the legislature by the committee's secretary Valeriy Shuykov. But he was unable to outdo the government's representatives in the parliamentary debates. As a result, instead of the requested 67 billion, the Defense Ministry will receive only 32.2 billion. Appropriations for servicemen's wages are cut by R9 billion, the pension fund is reduced somewhat, and appropriations for the construction of housing for servicemen are cut by R24.4 billion.

According to a statement by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee experts, they are surprised at the changeability in the policy of the Ministry of Finance, with which every figure was agreed beforehand. Specifically, in determining the costs of maintaining the army, the statement notes, calculations were carried out strictly in accordance with the president's decrees and the numerical strength of the Armed Forces. So the "slashed" R9 billion will still have to be found. The sum which it was proposed to use for building housing for servicemen was not superfluous, either. R34.4 billion is precisely what is needed, in the committee's opinion, in order to prevent the collapse of the Defense Ministry construction industry and to build housing for the troops being withdrawn from Germany, the Baltic, and "hot spots" in the CIS, and also to support the program for army cuts.

The question of human rights in Estonia was also examined before lunch. The resolution that was adopted notes that Russian servicemen, the main representatives in the Baltic countries, are subjected to discrimination and attacks. The question was raised of the need to consider economic sanctions against Estonia, where unlawful actions against citizens of Russia are becoming particularly rampant, and also of suspending (temporarily) the operation of Russia's state treaty with Estonia.

Regional Affairs

Kozyrev Arrives in Kamchatka for Visit

LD1807105892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Borovkov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy July 18 TASS—"Russia's eastern policy should be as active as in the west," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists upon his arrival at the Kamchatka Peninsula.

According to Kozyrev, the purpose of the visit is to analyse prospects of turning the region into the gateway and show-case of Russia on the Pacific coast. Kamchatka should become the final link in the belt of good neighbourliness and cooperation, which is now being created by Russian diplomats.

Immediately after the arrival Kozyrev met representatives of the public, fishermen and heads of the local administration.

"Our purpose is to familiarise ourselves with the needs and concerns of the Kamchatka population. Besides, we have some political interests. We would like to show that Russian diplomats are not pursuing the 'western' and 'eastern' policy separately. The Russian national emblem features an eagle with two heads, one of which looks to the east and the other to the west. This is why Russia pursues an even, balanced policy, which is neither pro- western, nor pro-eastern." he said.

According to Kozyrev, there will bo no trade in territories during the settlement of territorial problems with neighbours, specifically with Japan. "The territorial problem must be resolved, but not through turning over our territory to another country. It should be settled on the basis of the recognition of borders by both sides, without diktat, but without concessions either," he said.

In his opinion, Japan is a very important partner for Russia in the Far East, but not the only one. There are other partners, for instance, the United States, Canada, China, South Korea and ASEAN member states. He believes Russia, specifically its Far Eastern regions, need the diversification of relations, without anybody's monopoly on them. Kozyrev pointed out that the Kamchatka Peninsula should continue to be Russia's outpost in the Far East for ensuring its security, but without excessive emphasis on it, combining military force with the economic interests in the region.

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0900 GMT on 18 July, in a similar report, adds the following: "After Petropavlovsk- Kamchatskiy Andrey Kozyrev set off for Manila, the Philippines' capital, to attend an ASEAN conference. He will return to Krasnoyarsk to familiarize himself with the problems surrounding the conversion of the defense complex."

[Radio Rossii at 0700 GMT on 18 July notes that "Kozyrev gave to understand at once that he is against selling the Kurils to Japan."

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1400 GMT on 18 July, citing Kozyrev, reports him as telling a group of Kamchatka Cossacks picketing the oblast soviet in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy: "Do not worry, the Kurils are ours." The report also states: "In the building of the oblast soviet today there was a meeting of the administration and the public of the town. At the end of the meeting a deputation of Kamchatka Cossacks handed the minister a statement demanding the inadmissability of a revision of Russia's borders. Andrey Kozyrev also placed his signature on it."]

Concludes Visit

LD2007031392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0002 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By special ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Borovkov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, 20 July—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has concluded his short stay in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. During meetings that took place between the minister and the leaders of the oblast, the public, and the Navy, Andrey Kozyrev underlined that the proportion and role of the "eastern factor" in Russia's foreign policy has significantly increased with the disintegration of the Soviet Union and with Russia gaining independent statehood. The "land's end," as Kamchatka is sometimes called, will occupy an important place in Russia's external economic ties.

According to the minister, without involving itself in the competition between the states of the Asian-Pacific region, Russia, nevertheless, cannot take the position of a disinterested observer in this region because it has political, economic, and ecological interests here. It is necessary to maintain the presence of the Russian Navy in the Asia-Pacific region "not to demonstrate military might, but to maintain the minimum level of strategic forces necessary for the defense of Russia's vast Far Eastern borders." The minister thinks that Russia intends to achieve its aims not by increasing the amount of weaponry, as this had been done previously, but by intensifying economic interaction with the countries in the region. In connection with this, Andrey Kozyrev noted that great hopes are placed in Russia on President Boris Yeltsin's coming visit to Japan and South Korea this September.

The minister underlined that now the approach toward Japan is completely different from that of the former Soviet Union. One of the priority tasks in Russia's foreign policy is the forming of relations of true neighborliness and partnership with Tokyo. Moscow intends to implement this by "following the principles of legality and justice." Without any doubt, the president's coming visit is to mark a rapid development in Russian-Japanese relations and to give an impulse in the development of bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

Ossetians Meet To Consider Reconstruction

LD1907163292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A working meeting of leaders of the building sectors of North and South Ossetia took place today in Vladikavkaz under the chairmanship of Sergey Khetagurov, head of the North Ossetian Government. It examined the problems of restoring the economic structures of the Tshkinvali region, renewing supplies of electricity, gas, and water to the town's housing estates, and unblocking and repairing all roads.

According to ITAR-TASS, the North Ossetian Council of Ministers received a report today that the first buses of South Ossetian residents had left for Tskhinvali. The refugee committee located in Vladikavkaz has distributed a statement saying that with the arrival of peacekeeping forces in the Tskhinvali region, the opportunity has arisen for 130,000 displaced persons to return home.

Ethnic Relations Chairman Visits North Ossetia

LD1707222392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 16 TASS—Chairman of the State Committee on Ethnic Relations of the Russian Federation Valeriy Tishkov arrived in Vladikavkaz on Thursday [16 July] to meet with head of North Ossetian parliament Akhsarbek Galazov and North Ossetian Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov. They discussed the situation in South and North Ossetia after the 1.5 thousand-men-strong peace-keeping contingent was introduced into South Ossetia.

Tishkov is expected to substitute for Chief of Russian State Committee on Emergency Situations Sergey Shoiga, who will leave to lull the Dniester conflict "according to Ossetian pattern," North Ossetian parliament sources said.

National Security Committee Formed in Chechen

LD1707220792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1223 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—National Security Committee uniting secret services of parliament and president created in Chechen Republic. The committee that engages in intelligence and counterintelligence activities is subordinated to the president and kept under control by the parliament, which approves its personnel structure.

Lema Chebayev, head of the Chechen Parliamentary Press Service, told PF [POSTFACTUM] on July 15 that Salman Khasimikov, three times olympic champion and four times world champion in free-style wrestling, was appointed chairman of the National Security Committee. Previously he headed the Intelligence Service of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The creation of the National Security Committee settled the conflict between the legislative and executive authorities, which up till now had their own intelligence services independent of each other, Chabayev said. According to Chabayev, Colonel Ibragim Suleymenov, head of the parliamentary intelligence service, is expected to resign. Aside from Suleymenov, the staff of the parliamentary secret service included one more person, Colonel Akhmed Khataev, who was appointed deputy chairman of the newly created National Security Committee. The staff of the new committee includes several dozen persons.

Representatives Appointed to Ingush Republic

LD1807191392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Russia's parliament appointed on 16 July Deputy Viktor Yermakov as its plenipotentiary representatives in the Ingush Republic, the (KALINFORM) agency reports. People's Deputies Ibragim (Katoyev) and Sergey (Smityushenko) have become his deputies. Nazran, a major town in Ingushetia, will become the temporary residence of the parliamentary mission.

According to the law on the creation of the Ingush Republic as part of Russia, the formation of its territory and its organs of government will continue until March 1994.

Yermakov, a deputy from Leningrad Oblast, who commanded a number of armies, is now a member of a working group attached to Yuriy Yarov, the deputy speaker of the Russia parliament. The group is working on problems of the northern Caucausus.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Meets Council of Europe Delegation

LD1707075292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Today in Kiev, President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine met the delegation of the Council of Europe, headed by Hikmet Cetin, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Council of Europe and foreign minister of Turkey.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that the members of the delegation must collect all information about the political situation in the republic and economic and legal reforms. It is necessary in order to solve the question of admitting Ukraine to the Council of Europe.

Kravchuk Issues Interstate Relations Decree

LD1807224392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Kiev, 15 Jul (UKRINFORM)—Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a decree on the fulfillment of an agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the further development of interstate relations dated 23 June 1992. With the aim of guaranteeing timely payments on the mutual delivery of production, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with the participation of the National Bank of Ukraine is required to introduce calculations beween economic subjects of Ukraine and the Russian Federation from 1 July 1992 by means of demands and authorizations for payment [trebovaniyami-porucheniyami] instead of calculations by demands for payments. It is recommended that all enterprises, establishments and organizations of Ukraine dispatch production outside the borders of Ukraine following receipt of payment or guarantee of payment.

Foreign Minister on Improving Relations

LD1807174692 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a briefing for foreign and Ukrainian journalists yesterday. Ihor Kulinichenko reports:

[Kulinichenko] Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko welcomed all participants at the briefing on the second anniversary of the day that the declaration of independence of Ukraine was declared. [passage omitted] This is what he said about bilateral relations with countries of the former Union:

[Begin Zlenko recording] In my opinion, following the Dagomys meeting, the neighboring countries have become closer yet more foreign. This means that our mutual relations with Russia on the one hand acquired tendencies for rapprochement and on the other hand outlined the irreversible process of the sovereignization [suverenizatsii] of Ukraine and the building of our relations on the basis of equal rights.

In terms of the basic results of the diplomatic process, the complex knot of problems connected with the legal succession of Ukraine in regard to the START treaty has been undone. Ukrainian diplomacy has won for our state its legal right to be one of the participating sides of this treaty. A respective protocol was signed in Lisbon.

It seems that the issue of the division of the Black Sea Fleet will also shift from a deadlock. I would like to remind you that tomorrow there will be a meeting, a working meeting, of leaders of delegations from Ukraine and Russia on the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

The issue of the property abroad of the former USSR has been unblocked. At the moment a study of facilities in specific countries and groups of countries is being conducted. Next week a meeting of delegations of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation should take place on this issue. The process is under way, as a result of which individual premises, property, and land plots abroad should be transferred to Ukraine for the normal functioning of the activities of diplomatic and consular representations. As you know, Ukraine's share in the whole of the property abroad is 16.37 percent.

The process of developing bilateral ties, including in the expansion of foreign diplomatic representations, is continuing. I remind you that already there are 13 ambassadors, six charge d'affairs ad interim, and one honorary consul, in Greece, have been appointed and are working abroad. On the agenda is a group of people being recommended as ambassadors to respective countries. The question of the opening of general consulates of Ukraine in Munich, New York, and Chicago is being proposed. [end recording]

[Kulinichenko] The other issue that Minister Zlenko dwelled on in detail is Ukraine's participation in the general European processes. He pointed out to journalists that Ukraine has attained general world and European recognition. Some diplomatic steps give particular joy.

[Begin Zlenko recording] After signing the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter we gained full right to take part in the general European process. We played an active part in this process. During this period we have arranged respective cooperation with the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. A gradual expansion of ties with the Council of Europe is under way and the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe has been ratified. This is in accordance with the decisions of the Helsinki Conference. This treaty will temporarily come into force, I mean, it has already come into force as of 0000 on 17 July. [end recording]

Kravchuk Receives Letter on Nonproliferation

LD1707131492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine yesterday circulated a statement for the press. It is reported that on 13 July President George Bush announced a comprehensive initiative directed at strengthening the United States' efforts to restrain the proliferation of nuclear capacities and not to encourage the use of nuclear weapons.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Popadyuk informed Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko about these initiatives. During their meeting, he handed over a letter from President Bush to President Leonid Kravchuk in which the new U.S. initiatives are expressed.

U.S., IMF To Assist With Converting Currency

OW1907123692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview for the PRAVDA UKRAINY newspaper Ukraine's Finance Minister Grigoriy Pyatachenko has said that Ukraine reached an agreement with the IMF and with the U.S. Finance Ministry on granting it the necessary stabilization fund to ensure convertibility for its monetary unit. The money will be granted on two conditions: irreversibility of economic reforms and political stability.

Official Assesses CIS Meeting in Tashkent

LD1807201192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Today [17 July] Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk held a news conference in Kiev. He informed the journalists about his participation in the conference of foreign and defense ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Tashkent.

At that conference Ukraine initialed a protocol on provisional rules of engaging combined forces of the Commonwealth with the aim of restoring peace in the armed conflict areas on the territory of the former USSR.

Borys Tarasyuk said at the Tashkent conference Ukraine's representatives did not sign the document which envisages the setting up of a permanent working body of the border troops of the Commonwealth member states.

The delegation of Ukraine expressed its anxiety over the procrastination with the elaboration of a draft international agreement on the rights of the formerly deported nations [as heard]. This question will be discussed on the 28 July in Minsk at a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth member states. The Ukrainian side has already determined the composition of the delegation. It will include representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the State Committee for the Nationalities Affairs.

Border Violations Reported as Increasing

LD2007113192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Kiev July 20 TASS—Armed violators of the state border ever more often penetrate Moldova from Ukrainian territory. This was stated by the press service of the Ukrainian national guards commander. Thus, on July 18, guards of the Odessa region detained near Velikokomarovka village of the Velikomikhailovsk district of the Odessa region two recruits of the fourth battalion of the Dniester. Having on them weapons and large amounts of ammunition, they tried to cross the border in a Kamaz automobile.

On the same day, a sergeant of the 14th Army was detained near Razdelnaya station. He fled from Tiraspol, seizing cartridges for a submachinegun.

The press service reports other such cases.

National Affairs

Report on Dismissal of Defense Minister Denied

LD1907084392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry today refuted facts provided by the Moscow-based news agency POSTFACTUM which on the [?13] July this year reported that President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine dismissed Defense Minister of Ukraine Konstantin Morozov along with the Minister of Economy Vladimir Lanovoyy. The reason for their dismissal, according to the news agency, is that on the 2nd of July they did not sign a statement by the Cabinet of Ministers on the delimitation of functions between the government and parliament. The press service of the Defense Ministry is authorized to report that Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov was never dismissed from his present-day position and continues to perform his duties.

Defective Fleet Ammunition Sunk Near Shore

OW1707170992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian defense minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov has confirmed that on September 9, 1990 the Black Sea Fleet sunk all of its defective ammunition into the sea near the Ukrainian shoreline.

General Morozov said that this measure was resorted to because at that time the technology of the ammunition utilization had not been developed. The ammunition was sunk on the directive issued by the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

The administer [as received] maintains that the Black Sea Fleet does not have any CBR [chemical, bacteriological, and radiological] weapons in its inventory.

Kravchuk Signs Decree on Joining EBRD

LD1807114392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The president of Ukraine has signed a decree on Ukrainian membership in the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]. The decree, in particular, determines that Ukraine joins the treaty on the founding of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development on the grounds of the legislation effective on its territory. Ukraine confirms that, in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, it has received all necessary conditions which allow it to carry out its obligations in accordance with the specified treaties and the resolution of the Council of Governors, and commits itself to submitting whatever information the bank may request concerning those conditions.

The Ukrainian minister of finance has been appointed the governor from Ukraine and a member of the Council of Governors of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, and the head of the board of the National Bank of Ukraine has been appointed deputy of the Governor from Ukraine and member of the Council of Governors of the Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

Decree Issued on Payments With Russia

LD1807141592 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in 0500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The editorial office has received the text of a decree by the president of Ukraine on changing the procedure of payments between economic persons of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The decree says:

In order to implement a treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the development of inter-state relations dated 23 June 1992, and with the objective of providing timely payments on mutual deliveries of produce, I rule:

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, with participation of the National Bank of Ukraine, is to introduce from 1 July 1992 settlements between economic persons of Ukraine and the Russian Federation by way of requisition-orders [vymoga-doruchennya] instead of settlements by way of payment requisitions; to recommend to all enterprises, establishments, and organizations of Ukraine to dispatch produce outside the borders of Ukraine after receiving payment or guarantees of payments.

Prime Minister Fokin Predicts Economic Recovery

OW1907123492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitold Fokin has said at a press conference in Lugansk that the first signs of improvement in Ukraine's economic situation will emerge this autumn, and that an economic growth will begin early next year.

The Premier links the predicted improvement with success in the harvesting of crops thanks to which Ukraine will be able to stop its grain imports.

According to the KHARKOV NOVOSTI news agency, Fokin also said that he'll resign only when he ceases to feel people's trust.

Private Farm Numbers Increase

LD1907162692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] [No dateline as received]—According to information from Ukraine's State Committee on Land, on 1 July there were almost 10,000 private farms in the country. There were just 2,000 of them at the beginning of the year. These essential changes in the use of land have taken place after the land code of Ukraine and other legislative acts were adopted. The agricultural land was inventoried, a land reserve intended for farmers of 3.1 million hectares was created. The number of those wishing to use plots adjoining house and garden plots, hayfields, and pastureland has considerably grown. A special state fund of 1 billion rubles has been set up for providing support for farms. However, the farms' progress would go faster if local authorities had inventoried the land in a timely manner. In addition, only 14 percent of almost 60,000 citizens' applications for the organization of farms have been approved.

Press Service Reports Unemployment Figures

LD1807201992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] As was reported by the press service of the president of Ukraine 19,000 unemployed have been registered in Kiev, of whom 1,200 receive allowances from the state. According to forecasts of experts in the near future 37,000 people will remain without jobs. In this connection the state administration works out a concrete program of social protection of the jobless.

Increased Border Incursions From Moldova Noted

LD1907231292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Summary] The press service of the commander of the National Guard of Ukraine reported that incidents of armed state border trespassers crossing from Moldova are becoming more frequent. Two members of people's volunteer corps from the Dniester Region who had weapons on them were arrested near the village of Velikokomarovka in Odessa Oblast. A deserter from the 14th Army was arrested near the station of Razdelnaya. Six inhabitants of Ukraine who had weapons and were trying to cross the border from Dniester Region were arrested near the village of Shershentsy. A tactical group of the National Guard of Ukraine is taking measures to prevent weapons and armed formations from being sent to Ukraine. Garrison posts have been put in possible places of trespassing.

Byelarus

Shushkevich, Landsbergis View Border Issues

LD1807052892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Excerpts] Now, when interethnic conflicts are a harsh reality, the questions relating to the adjustment of borders between Byelarus and Lithuania are being settled in a civilized way our correspondent believes.

[Begin video recording] [Correspondent Zhuk] This is Grodno Oblast, Ostrovetskiy Rayon, village (Derevyaty), which has not been chosen by accident for the meeting. There is peace and friendship among Byelarusians, Lithuanians, Poles, Russians, and Ukrainians here. [passage omitted]

Stanislav Shushkevich and Vytautas Landsbergis, chairmen of the Byelarusian and Lithuanian Supreme Soviets, have discussed problems relating to the interests of the two sides.

[Landsbergis] We indeed have a common approach and our views coincide: We both want Byelarusians to be pleased with their lives in Lithuania and Lithuanians to be happy with their way of life in Byelarus.

[Shushkevich] In fact we have organized a competition. We have set for our structures the task of settling all the issues before 30 September. [end recording]

Republic Starts Call-Up; Troops Swear Loyalty

LD1907230592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Byelarus has started a call-up to the national army. According to the republic's minister of defense, Pavel Kazlowski, the army will be some 90,000 strong. This is much less than the number of troops deployed in Byelarus now. In conditions of cuts in the army the republic is getting ready to accommodate some 40,000 Byelarusian officers who are now serving outside the republic.

On Sunday [19 July] the national troops swore an oath of allegiance to the people of the Byelarusian sovereign republic.

Minister: No 'Hurry' To Withdraw Nuclear Arms

PM2007094192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Colonel Valeriy Kovalev report: "Petr Chaus: 'I Believe That We Must Not Be Hasty in Withdrawal of Nuclear Weapons From Republic's Territory'"]

[Text] On 15 July the Ostankino television company reported that, according to Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Petr Chaus, the Republic of Byelarus is declaring its nuclear-free status.

On the same day, your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent spoke to Colonel General Chaus over the telephone and it unexpectedly came to light that the deputy defense minister...had nothing to do with the statement that was made on the television. His true position on this question is reflected in an interview with the republic newspaper ZVYAZDA. In this interview Chaus specifically confirmed that the republic will strive to become a neutral and nuclear-free state and that it does not intend to join any military blocs or alliances. At the same time he stated that he is not sure that Byelarus can acquire nuclear-free status within seven years, as the press frequently maintains. It is hard to say exactly how much time is in actually needed for the withdrawal of all nuclear components from its territory. "To my mind," the general said, "in the interests of the republic, we must not be hasty in the withdrawal of strategic nuclear missiles. The presence of such a powerful weapon in our country will at first help Byelarus to establish itself. The whole world treats us as a nuclear power.... Another reason why we must not be in a hurry to withdraw the strategic nuclear weapons is that the development of events in the CIS in the present situation is simply unpredictable."

At the same time, according to Chaus, Byelarus will always participate with other countries in the negotiating process on nuclear disarmament and will conscientiously fulfill the obligations placed upon it.

Migration Service for Refugees Established

LD1907060192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] By a decision of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, a state migration service has been set up in Byelarus because the number of refugees has increased sharply in the republic. Over 1,500 people have already arrived in Byelarus from the Dniester region, the Transcaucasus, and other hotspots. It is possible that soon the number of refugees will increase considerably, since over 2 million persons of Byelarusian nationality live outside Byelarus, the RIKA agency notes.

Business Cooperation Group Set Up With Turkey

LD1807175592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By BELTA correspondent Tatyana Khryapina for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 17 TASS—Heads of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Byelarus and the Union of Turkish Chambers and Exchanges signed on Friday [17 July] an agreement on the creation of the Byelarusian-Turkish Committee for Business Cooperation.

"Byelarusian-Turkish trade and commercial relations grow stronger with every day," BELTA was told by

Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Byelarus, Vladimir Lesun. "One can see on the markets of Istanbul today many commodities produced by Byelarusian enterprises—refrigerators, TV sets, foodstuffs. They are in high demand, although they were delivered to Turkey through mediators who earn profits. The Byelarusian-Turkish Committee of Business Cooperation will provide direct links".

"The Turkish side," Lesun said, "is interested, particularly, in science-intensive and engineering products, domestic appliances, consumer goods. We can receive in return foodstuffs, especially vegetable oil, clothes and footwear, and sign contracts on joint construction projects. Joint efforts in developing science and tourism can bring good results. The agreement also provides for beneficial cooperation between a variety of private firms and companies and state structures of both countries in organising international exhibitions and fairs."

Moldova

Draft Dniester Accord With Russia Reached

OW1807182192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidents of the Russian Federation and Moldova are expected to sign in Moscow next week an agreement on the principles of a peace settlement in Dniester. By information which has come to INTERFAX in Chisinau from circles close to Mircea Snegur, that decision has been taken today, Saturday [18 July], at the session of Moldova's Security Council on the results of work by Russian and Moldovan experts specifying the details of the document.

Under the draft-agreement the sides of the conflict will take measures from the moment of its signing for a complete ceasefire and refrain from any hostilities. A withdrawal of troops will begin simultaneously to be completed in seven days. In the safety zone a joint Control Commission is to be set up with HQ in Bendery. A protocol will define the numbers, status, and conditions of the military contingents in the zone. Bendery will be proclaimed a district under a special safety regime maintained by the contingents of the agreement's signatories. There is a special clause on the neutrality of Russia's 14th Army.

The draft agreement has been presented to Mr. Snegur today by the leader of Russia's delegation Valeriy Krasnov, head of the Russian Vice-President's secretariat. The delegation has arrived in Tiraspol and begun discussing the draft with the Dniestrian leaders.

Russia, Dniester Approve Accord

LD1907111692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 19 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Semenova]

[Text] Moscow July 19 TASS—The delegations of Russia and the Dniester Republic of Moldova approved in Tiraspol on Saturday [18 July] a draft agreement on the principles of settling the conflict earlier reached by Russia and Moldova.

The document calls for disengaging the warring sides immediately after they cease fire in the conflict area where a security zone will be established. A three-party commission consisting of representatives of Moldova, Russia and the Dniester Republic will oversee the implementation of the agreement. The commission's headquarters will be located in Bendery, where Russian troops will be deployed.

The sides pledged to take measures to end all economic blockades and Russia agreed to act as a guarantor in the settlement of the conflict.

The talks were attended by Dniester leader Igor Smirnov, members of the conciliatory commission, General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in the conflict region, and Bendery city officials.

Late on Saturday, the Russian delegation left for Chisinau to discuss the changes made to the draft agreement during the talks in Tiraspol.

Meanwhile, Moldovan troops were reported moving towards the conflict zone. Two barges with people and three armoured personnel carriers crossed the river near Dubossary, the Dniester press centre said, while troops continued manoeuvring along the Kaushany highway between 18:00 and 19:00 on Saturday, according to Dniester guard reconnaissance reports.

Bendery came under heavy mortar fire last night. Shells destroyed the local silk factory and mechanical plant, and set a cable-making plant on fire. Plundering and marauding were reported in the Leninsky district of the city. Sporadic shooting broke out in the city throughout the night. Several people were killed and wounded.

One Dniester soldier was killed in a mine explosion near the village of Koshitsa on Saturday while trying to penetrate the territory controlled by Moldovan forces. Several more were killed and wounded as a result of a shoot-out with Moldovan soldiers.

The Moldovan side lost two people killed and ten wounded, including seven from Interior Ministry troops and three volunteers.

Dniester Leader Comments on Accord

AU1907202392 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] With a background of relative calm in the conflict area—with the exception of Tighina—late last night [18 July] the leadership of the self-styled Dniestrian republic initialed the convention between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova on the principles of peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova. This document, according to well-informed sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry, will be signed next week during a meeting planned for 24-25 July between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur.

Prepared in Moscow, the draft of the convention has been approved, with certain amendments, by the Moldovan leadership, following the negotiations with the Russian delegation that came to Chisinau for this purpose.

The commander of the Russian 14th Army, Aleksandr Lebed said the document is extremely positive. He said it is essential to ensure that Russian troops will enter the most turbulent areas in the Dniester region and that they should receive the status of peacekeeping forces.

The activities of the Russian delegation were extremely valuable, said Igor Smirnov, the president of the self-proclaimed Dniestrian republic. He expressed doubt that the Moldovan side will respect the understandings agreed upon. I hope that Russia will know how to show firmness in implementing this convention, Smirnov said.

Currently the only guarantee for our people can be a political statute for the Dniestrian republic, Smirnov said in an interview broadcast this morning by Tiraspol radio and received in Chisinau.

It is not impossible that we will be able to talk in the future about a unified coalition government; however, this can transpire only after the recognition of the political statute of the republic and the stipulation in the Constitution that we are an independent republic with our own constitution, with our own state authorities and other institutions, he added.

Asked what he thinks will happen in the future, Smirnov said that events can unfold in different directions, but he does not rule out a new bloodbath carried out by Moldova, which, he said, withdrew its military hardware from various positions but continues to concentrate human forces.

Referring to the Moldovan proposal to reserve three key ministerial positions for Transdniestrians, Smirnov called it a quote, political trick, unquote, meant to throw dust in the eyes of the international community.

Military Adviser Satisfied

LD1807230992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By MOLDOVAPRES correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 18 Jul—A session of the Moldovan Higher Security Council held today under the chairmanship of Mircea Snegur, the republic's president, has ended. It examined the results of the final discussion held in Chisinau on 17 July by experts from Moldova and the Russian Federation on a draft agreement "On the Principles of a Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Dniester Region of Moldova." According to the president's press service, this agreement will be signed next week in Moscow by the heads of state of both countries.

Speaking today on Moldova's national radio, Nicolae Chirtoache, advisor on military issues to the president, expressed satisfaction with the participation on the draft agreement by the Russian delegation, which is led by Valeriy Krasnov, head of the Russian vice president's Secretariat. Chirtoache noted that the experts from Russia's Foreign Ministry, Interior Ministry, and Security Ministry displayed a sincere interest in the problem of settling the conflict in the Dniester region. Cooperation with them from similar positions has allowed the inclusion in this document of a series of constructive points. In particular, the advisor said, the basic political principles laid down as the basis for the agreement were jointly recognized to be the territorial integrity of Moldova, the inviolability of its borders, the observance of human rights and rights of ethnic minorities, and the correspondence of its articles to the norms and principles of international law. There was also found to be full mutual understanding regarding the question of absolute neutrality and noninterference in Moldova's internal affairs on the part of the Russian 14th Army.

The Russian experts also approved the articles included by the authors of the draft concerning the creation of a single coordinating group of representatives from the defense ministries of both states and the formation of joint forces for peacekeeping and law enforcement. There was a joint decision to choose Bendery as the place for their deployment, which will for a time be accorded special status, being called upon to ensure normal conditions for the activity of the military observers and peacekeeping forces.

Snegur Views Chances for Peace, Restructuring

OW1707224392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Interview with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur in Chisinau on 17 July; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An exclusive interview given by president Mircea Snegur to our Chisinau correspondent today.

Q.: How did the Russian leadership react to the draft agreement between Russia and Moldova on the basic principles for the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester region of Moldova approved by Moldova's Supreme Security Council?

A.: On the whole they reacted positively. Yesterday I had contacts with the Russian leadership on it. Today a group of Russian experts is coming to Chisinau to work on the document with their Moldovan counterparts. What is most important is that both sides are willing to put an end to the conflict. We have to hurry up, but we must be careful not to make any mistakes.

Q.: Do you think it is realistic to expect the Dniester problem to be solved in the foreseeable future?

A.: The best way to solve the problem is to have everybody go back to work. I am being violently criticized by the opposition and by what would seem very democratic media for taking steps to achieve peace. But I have always believed that the problem should be solved by peaceful, political means. So we've come round to it now, anyway.

As for my forecasts, I'm sure Moldova will not be a federation, because I can't see any reason for it. Peoples do have a right to self-determination, but there are certain criteria for it, above all national identity. In the Dniester region, 40 percent of the population are Moldovans, and only 24 percent are Russians, and the latter mainly live in two towns, Tiraspol and Rybnitsa. The Ukrainians make up 28 percent. Nevertheless I'm not opposed to granting this region a special legal status and giving it maximum autonomy. Tiraspol, for example, could be given the status of free economic zone of free city.

But maximum local autonomy, of course, implies certain political prerogatives, whether we want it or not. There's the language problem, for instance. We are prepared to change the law and extend the Moldovan language course. I even think the parliament will go as far as including in the law on a special status for the eastern region of the republic a clause granting the population of the region the right to self-determination in case the country changes its political status. I think this is the most important thing.

Q.: What will be the priority stabilizing measures taken in the period of transition from truce to peace?

A.: We ought to resume natural gas supplies to the right bank of the Dniester. Industry is at a standstill, and everybody is affected by it. Incidentally, we export a considerable proportion of our output to Russia. At the moment we are lifting blockades from the railways. I think this is the way we shall be restoring our relations-gradually, step by step.

I just don't like those claims in the media to the effect that Snegur has given up his political ambition for the sake of a fair solution. This is wrong, for I have always been pursuing the same aim-peace. I have never wanted war.

Q.: Supposing there are some attempts from certain quarters, on the right or on the left, to violate the peace which is still very fragile, what would you do then?

A.: I will be using the same peaceful methods. Yes, it is a painful experience for me to watch some or our television programs in which our policemen or soldiers complain about not being allowed to shoot back when the Dniester guards are shooting. Those are precisely the orders I've given: not to shoot, in order not to provoke fighting. But, unfortunately, although we've signed those agreements and I've ordered a complete ceasefire, we have one or two killed and between ten and fifteen wounded every day. I just have to put up with criticism, because things would be much worse if they managed to provoke us into fighting, and we have another edition of June 19 (the day Bendery was stormed). So I think I have to be firm.

Q.: What made you so urgently replace the defense and national security ministers?

A.: There were several reasons. First of all, we are now forming a new government. The old one has handed in its resignation, and it was accepted. So there are no political reasons for the replacements you have mentioned. This is a renovation process, new people and new ideas are needed, so a new team is being formed. We are looking for ways to speed up our reforms and trying to work out an optimum privatization program. We have no such program so far and are basically going by the trial and error method.

Many mistakes are also being made in the fields you mentioned in your question, which means new people are needed there too. And, of course, a new prime minister has been appointed, whose opinion the president can't ignore.

Q.: What other changes should we expect in the near future?

A.: We are going to give the posts of Finance and Industry ministers to people from the Dniester region, although we still haven't had official consent from Tiraspol. One of the deputy defense ministers will also be from that part of the country. We may still not have a finance and industry ministers by next Tuesday, because the Dniester region leaders have so far rejected the offer, but in any case we'll keep the two posts for them.

Dniester Leader Urges Cease-Fire, Withdrawals

OW1807181792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1525 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The main condition for settling the Dniestrian conflict is an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of all armed units 10-15 km from the conflict zone, says the

Dniestrian Moldovan Republic's [DMR] President Igor Smirnov. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX he has explained today that the next stage in normalizing the situation should be the introduction of the peacemaking forces, but the leaders of the DMR "are ready to accept as guarantors any country except Romania and Moldova who are directly involved in the conflict".

Igor Smirnov is convinced that "stabilization should be impossible without recognizing the right to self-determination of the Dniester people". He stressed that "after all that happened we can't talk of any federation with Moldova, our people's will is for independence and sovereignty. It's another matter whether politicians wish to recognize it or not". He said "you can't deny a nation its independence by any force". His republic expects to maintain relations with Moldova "by way of treaties and direct links" and can open talks on that today. Common economic problems "will sooner or later make us join a single economic space", admitted I. Smirnov. "We see our republic as an equal member of such a space in the CIS".

Dniester Parliament Chief on Peace Proposals

LD1707193792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Jul 92

["Vesti" video report by V. Vinogradov]

[Text] At a news conference today Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Dniester Moldovan Republic Supreme Soviet, explained why Dniester has turned down Moldova's peace proposals. The Dniester Moldovan Republic has rejected three ministerial posts in the new Moldovan government, plus one post as deputy defense minister. It turns out not to be a flat rejection.

[Begin Marakutsa recording] We consider that prior to deciding on this issue we should decide on another one. In other words, we and Moldova should decide on the status of the Dniester region first. [end recording]

[Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 1500 GMT on 17 July, reporting Marakutsa's comments, states: "Grigoriy Marakutsa, Supreme Soviet chairman of the Dniester Moldovan republic, has stated that Moldova will not go unpunished for its acts of aggression in the Dniester region. Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, he reports that the Dniester Moldovan Republic has created a commission to collect materials related to events in the region. Marakutsa has acknowledged that he is partially to blame for the Bendery tragedy. In accordance with the agreement reached between Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, and Romania, the guards defending the town were removed, which permitted Moldova to bring 60 armored vehicles and its armed formations into the town in just one hour, he said. Marakutsa explained that the purpose of his visit to Moscow is his intention to discuss with Russia the possibility of providing financial aid for the Dniester region."]

Snegur Says Government Seats Kept for Dniester

OW1707215992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's President Mircea Snegur has announced that the new cabinet being formed now has several seats reserved for ministers and deputy defence minister. He has given the information in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX today, Friday. To a question about replacing the ministers of defence and national security the President explained that was part of a general renewal following the resignation of the previous cabinet. "Many errors were made in those fields", he added.

Concerning the arrival in Chisinau July 17 of Russian experts for joint work at a draft agreement on Dniester M. Snegur stressed that "both sides wish to end the conflict" and that his own position has always been "to solve the problem by peaceful political means".

"My order is to cease fire", he commented on what he described as continued armed provocations from the left bank. "Unfortunately", he went on, "after our agreements and an order on a general cease fire we still have one or two persons killed and ten or fifteen wounded daily".

The President said he was resolutely opposed to a federation with Moldova's eastern regions. He does not rule out, though, granting Dniester "a special legal status allowing a maximum local autonomy". Tiraspol can become a free economic zone, he suggested. It could be also specified in the law that "in case the country changed its statehood, the region should have a right to define its future.

Dniester Insists on Federal Status

OW1707170692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Dniester Moldovan Republic (PMR) is insisting on the initial establishment of its status as a federal subject or confederation within Moldova, as well as the demarcation of powers with the Chisinau authorities. Chairman of the PMR Supreme Soviet Grigory Marakutsa announced this Friday [17 July] at a press conference in Moscow. He said that people in the Dniester region were grateful "to Russia and other countries for their efforts to end the armed conflict on the left bank of the Dniester."

Commenting on the resignation of the Moldovan Ministers of Defense and National Security, the head of the Dniester parliament said that in their dismissal "there is something positive, since both ministers were followers of a strict line regarding Dniester." On the other hand, Marakutsa noted that their departure could be seen as a "gesture aimed at the international community, to remove from Cabinet those guilty of the bloody Dniester tragedy which caused hundreds of deaths."

He emphasized that the Dniester leadership "is still refusing Chisinau's proposals of a portfolio of ministers for finance, industry, territorial issues and for deputy defense minister."

In his own words, Marakutsa was in Moscow to install a system to transport wounded from the area of conflict for treatment in Moscow clinics. He is also planning to ask for financial aid in Moscow. Since the start of the conflict, more than 100,000 Dniester inhabitants have fled and become refugees and Tiraspol does not have the funds to aid them. Large amounts will be needed to revive industry in the area as well.

A group of peoples' deputies from Moscow regional soviets has departed for Dniester to bring medicine to hospitals and to better understand the situation there, the press center for the Council of Moscow chairmen of regional soviets informs.

Snegur Calls Efforts To Federalize 'Groundless'

AU1707170992 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] The Moldovan president, Mr. Mircea Snegur, granted interviews to the reporters of the Swedish Television and the INTERFAX Agency.

President Snegur rebuffed allegations made by certain commentators in Moscow, according to which the efforts made by the republic's leadership aimed at achieving peace in the eastern rayons are to be seen as a change in Moldova's policy. As president of Moldova, I have the mandate given to me by our people through democratic elections. Therefore it is my duty to preserve Moldova's unity now that attempts are being made to federalize the country. I have never believed in settling disputes by means of violence; I have always been aware that all wars eventually end up in peace, Mr. Snegur stated. He then assessed that if the separatist leaders would give up their ambitions to federalize the republic—which are absolutely groundless—that would fully correspond to the wish of the people living on the left bank of the Dniester River. Among the compromise measures that the Moldovan Parliament might be willing to take, the essential one would be to grant the population living in the eastern rayons the right to decide its own fate, in case the political status of the republic is altered. Such a compromise demonstrates once again that slogans concerning the Moldovan leadership's intentions to unite with Romania lack any ground, Snegur added.

Asked to comment on the text of the draft convention among Moldova and Russia concerning the basic principles regulating the settlement of the Dniester conflict, already approved by the Supreme Security Council, Mr. Mircea Snegur mentioned that a commission consisting of Russian experts is expected to arrive in Chisinau today. Together with Moldovan experts, they are to finish up the text of that document. Generally speaking, Snegur said, the opinion of the Russian party is positive, and now that the Dniester region is quiet again, stipulations of that document can be examined attentively.

During the mentioned interviews, the Moldovan president also answered questions concerning the setting up of the new government of national conciliation, the structure draft [as heard], and possible candidatures for ministerial offices. Mr. Snegur emphasized that the cabinet reshuffle in no way means giving up democratic principles and reforms. [passage omitted]

A presidential decree appointed Mr. (Petre Chiril Lucinschi) as extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in the Russian Federation.

Ministry Suspends Justice Courts on Left Bank

AU1707191392 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] As a consequence of certain violent actions undertaken by the leaders of the so-called Dniester Moldovan Republic in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova and in the town of Tighina [Bendery], the activity of the justice courts has been suspended, and new illegitimate juridical structures have been set up, the Moldovan Justice Ministry press center announced.

In that way, citizens living on the left bank of the Dniester River and in the town of Tighina have been deprived of the right to defend their legitimate rights in justice courts. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights has thus been violated.

Considering the right of the citizens to defend themselves in justice courts as very important and to fill in the juridical activity artificially created by the Dniester separatists, the Moldovan Justice Ministry and the Supreme Court adopted a common resolution stipulating that the solution of all civil litigious matters of the citizens living in the eastern rayons of the republic or in the town of Tighina should be tried in courts situated on the right bank of the Dniester River. The mentioned fora also stated that all legal decisions made by the juridical structures set up on the left bank of the Dniester River are illegitimate and may not be executed. [passage omitted]

The National Committee "Russia for Dniester" issued an appeal calling for all labor communities in Russia to respond to the calls voiced by the leaders in Tiraspol and by the (Comrat) [not further identified] and to immediately acknowledge the Dniester Republic as a sovereign and independent state, the RIA agency, received in Chisinau, reports. [passage omitted]

Bendery Shooting Continues Despite Cease-Fire

LD2007090592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0741 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau July 20 TASS—Despite the ceasefire agreement in the Dniester region, the situation in Bendery remains difficult and explosive. Shooting from different kinds of weapons continues. People are killed every day. Three policemen were killed, six persons were wounded in Bendery in the past 24 hours.

Viktor Katane, Moldovan first deputy minister of the interior, says that Dniester guards, Cossacks and other mercenaries involved in hostilities against defenders of the Republic of Moldova actually operate without control. Statements of leaders of the Dniester region and leaders of the guards that there exists some third force in the city which operates on its own hold no water, Katane said. He said the third force are guards and Cossacks on the payroll of Tiraspol. They also receive from Tiraspol contemporary arms which they use against the lawful Moldovan authorities, he said.

Now that provocations of guards, Cossacks and other mecenaries continue in Bendery, that Moldovan policemen are constantly in mortal danger, the patience of people wears thin. Leaders of the Dniester should be aware of this and should foresee consequences, the deputy minister said.

Russian Officers Insist on Staying Until Peace

LD1707133592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Officers of the Russian 14th Army have sent an open letter to the president and the supreme commander in chief of the Russian armed forces stressing that officers do not want to and will not betray their own people, relatives, and friends. They will not leave the Dniester territory unless all the problems are resolved there by political means and peace is established. This piece of news has been provided by the YEVRAZIYA agency.

Kazakhstan

Officials Meet With U.S. on Military Doctrine

OW1707182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday evening [16 July] in Alma-Ata, Prime Minister Sergey Tereschenko assured a delegation from the United States Defense Department led by the head of the secretariate of this department Mr. L. Libby, that Kazakhstan's military doctrine will be firmly based on the principles of non-proliferation of atomic weapons and defense sufficiency. At the same time the head of the government, in agreement with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, confirmed the republic's intentions as a sovereign state to create its own armed forces.

A thorough concept for Kazakhstan's military structure was shown to the American guests during their visit with Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov, who is a member of the Security Council headed by Nazarbayev.

He especially emphasized that there would be a small, but "mobile" army. On the whole, the Defense Minister confirmed the intention to cut back the armed forces of the former Soviet Army, but also stated that in such a serious matter, "rushing" is inadmissible, since this could increase tensions due to the threat of unemployment.

Kairat Zhukeyev, adviser to the president on defense issues, was also present at the meeting and added that Kazakhstan would in the future "wisely" cut down the army in order to avoid "negative" processes. He stressed that the national army would be formed on the basis of the former Soviet army. The adviser stated that "in the future nothing could hinder broad contact between military specialists from both the United States and Kazakhstan. The American officers who participated in the discussion heard this proposal with satisfaction.

The members of the U.S. Defense delegation paid attention to the fact that part of the $400 mn [million] allotted to CIS countries to liquidate weapons of mass destruction will be sent to Kazakhstan since it is a state possessing such weapons and which has taken responsibility for their destruction.

In his turn, Nurmagambetov emphasized that the Defense Ministry is in control of the nuclear arsenals located on republican territory.

The Defense Minister asked the Americans "when the nuclear test site in Nevada would close?" In response the guests stated the necessity of improving nuclear weapons and the fact that recent tests have only been done with small charges.

In an interview with Interfax at the end of the meeting, representatives from Nurmagambetov's circle said that the fact that specialists from the U.S. Defense Department took part in the negotiations, while in the not so distant past they were developing programs and methods to 'disrupt the Soviet Army from within' was a sign of the new times.

Ibrahim Cakir Appointed Economic Adviser

NC1707200892 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 7 Jul 92 p 14

[Text] Ankara—Ibrahim Cakir, former Turkish deputy under secretary of the treasury and foreign trade, has been appointed President Nazarbayev's adviser responsible [sorumlu] for economic affairs.

Cakir's appointment as adviser to the Kazakhstan president was finalized when Nazarbayev met with him in Alma Ata last week. Cakir will also be a member of the Consultative Committee for Economic Affairs, headed by Nazarbayev. Cakir has disclosed that a decree was issued last week appointing him as presidential adviser. He asserted: "President Nazarbayev is determined to introduce a free market system in Kazakhstan."

Cakir will leave for Kazakhstan on 16 July. He will stay there for about two weeks each month.

IMF Admits Kazakhstan as Member

LD1807161392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0544 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington July 16 TASS—Kazakhstan became the 167th country to join the International Monetary Fund. The IMF charter was signed by a Kazakh representative on Wednesday [15 July].

Kazakhstan's quota in the IMF equals 239 million dollars.

Economic Agreement With Estonia Signed

LD1907182692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Abishev, minister for foreign economic relations of Kazakhstan, and Estonian Trade Minister Tamm have signed an agreement in Alma-Ata on trade and economic cooperation between our states. It envisages most favored nation status for both sides. Assistance will be provided in setting up representations of trade firms and opening joint ventures. The agreement goes beyond the framework of the usual treaty on trade issues. It creates legal foundations for interaction between the sovereign states and is intended to serve as a factor for resuming and developing economic ties on the basis of international law.

Romania's Nastase Visits; Protocol Signed

LD1807054392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Nastase visited Alma-Ata today. The first meeting of the Romanian minister took place in the Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Heads of the foreign directorates of the two states stressed in their conversation that a new, more dynamic stage of development of the Kazakh-Romanian relations has arrived. From now on, the high-level visits will become more frequent and there will be an active exchange of various delegations. For example, an agreement has already been reached about the exchange of scholarships. Cultural ties will also be expanded. Mutually beneficial contacts between businessmen and entrepreneurs will be established. The Romanian Embassy will be opened next week in Alma-Ata and the Kazakh one in Bucharest a little later. Today, the protocol on establishing diplomatic relations was signed. The trade and economic agreement between Kazakhstan and Romania has been initialed in the Ministry of the Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

European Council Delegation Visits Alma-Ata

LD1907162192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Summary] A delegation from the European Council has paid a visit to Alma-Ata. Members of the delegation held a meeting with Kazakh Vice President Eric Asanbayev. The latter noted that Kazakhstan "will construct its state on ethnic principles." He said that Kazakhstan "is the only CIS republic which has less indigenous population than Russian-speaking population." Therefore, the government has to do its best to protect the Kazakh language and culture. At the same time, Kazakhstan takes account of the interests of other nations living in Kazakhstan. The law on languages which has granted the Russian language status for interethnic communications testifies to this.

Zinaida Fedotova, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, received the European Council delegation. The guests were told about the work of the parliament in making the republic really independent, preparing the legislation to support the economic reforms, and providing social protection for the population. Special attention was paid to the eighth session of the Supreme Soviet, which approved new state symbols and adopted the draft constitution in the first reading. Issues of democracy, the birth of new political parties and movements, and the possibility of cooperation between the European Council and the Kazakh parliament were also discussed.

Members of the delegation held a news conference. They said that the aim of the visit was to provide versatile information about the activities of the European Council and to get to know processes that are taking place in Kazakhstan.

Cabinet Discusses Poor Economic Performance

LD1707221192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting of the cabinet of ministers took place today under the chairmanship of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. It was attended by the heads of oblast administrations and Alma-Ata [words indistinct] city administrations and the heads of a number of state concerns.

There was discussion of the results of the work of the national economy and the fulfillment of the republican budget (?in the first half of the year) and measures to stabilize the economy in the second half of 1992. It was noted that the work that has been carried out by the heads of oblast administrations, ministries, departments, and state concerns to stabilize the economy in the (?present) situation are not yet producing the necessary results.

So far this year (?they have not managed to halt) the fall in production and normalize the state of affairs in the financial and credit sphere. In the first half of the year, the national income decreased, compared with the same period last year, by 20.2 percent; the productivity of social labor decreased by 19.8 percent; the volume of industrial production decreased by 12 percent.

A critical situation has arisen with regard to monetary circulation. The increasing reciprocal indebtedness of economic subjects has led to a state in which insolvency has become universal and has virtually paralyzed the work of many enterprises and organizations.

The absence of a mechanism for regulating the prices of goods produced by monopoly enterprises has led to the accelerated growth of prices in the basic sectors. Enterprises' shortage of their own financial resources and the high credit rates of commercial banks have considerably reduced investment activity. The state is not excluded. Of the 32 installations due to go into operation, not one has been put into use. There has been a sharp drop in housing construction.

The heads of administrations and heads of ministries and departments of the Kazakhstan National Bank have been given specific instructions to correct the situation that has arisen.

The meeting also reviewed the question of urgent measures to improve the public health system in conditions of the transfer to the market.

11 Newspapers Closed Down in Alma-Ata

LD1807041792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] In the capital of Kazakhstan, Alma-Ata, the publication of 11 alternative newspapers has been halted. The authorities explain that this is due to the poor sanitary conditions in the work places. However, in its report on this, ITAR-TASS concludes with the retort: Maybe the fact is that it is more comfortable without alternative publicatons?

Minister Urges Servicemen To Remain Loyal

PM2007100192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Colonel Anatoliy Ladin report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "The Kazakh Defense Minister Has Instructed the Servicemen Not to Panic"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The republic mass media have circulated an appeal from Colonel General Sagadzhat Nurmagambetov, Kazakh minister of defense, to the personnel of the military units performing service on the republic's territory.

It says that many difficult trials are befalling Kazakh servicemen today. Feelings of alarm and confusion have in many respects also affected members of the servicemen's families. The defense minister stressed that the republic's leadership is taking resolute measures aimed at efficiently providing for the legal and social protection of servicemen and members of their families, and will prevent any ill-considered rapid transfer of officers into the reserve.

"I ask all servicemen to preserve loyalty to the Constitution and the republic's laws," the appeal goes on to say, "to keep the peace, maintain mutual respect in relations, and value the sanctity of friendship and fraternity of peoples. The honor and dignity of servicemen must not be tarnished."

Law on Private Enterprise Marks New Departure

PM2007102592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[Correspondent Sergey Skorokhodov report under the "Government" rubric: "'Bomb' Which Did Not Go Off"]

[Text] The Kazakh Supreme Soviet session has completed its work. More than 100 items connected with the consolidation of statehood, progress of economic reform, and expansion of international contacts and ties were examined. Parliamentarians could be proud of having adopted around 50 laws, giving the republic constitution and the bill on new state symbols their first reading, instilling legislative order into the process of immigration, defining the status and functions of the organs of national security, internal affairs, and the internal troops, and raising the wages of workers in the social sphere as of 1 September. The minimum wage and minimum pensions have been raised to 900 rubles from October. The profits tax has been reduced from 35 to 25 percent....

However, the last day of the session and the last item examined at the session was truly a sensation which perhaps even the parliamentarians did not properly appreciate. This was the draft Law "On Protecting and Supporting Private Enterprise," which businessmen, that third estate in whose revival we now see our salvation from hunger and poverty, for the first time took part in drafting.

This law has a rather dramatic history. Its drafting was initiated by the Union of Entrepreneurs and Leaseholders of Kazakhstan and the independent trade union "Birlesu" at the behest of the republic Supreme Soviet. Both organizations represent a vivid alternative to the state structures and state-controlled trade unions which have been given a lick of commercial paint. This determined the nature of the draft law, which takes a firm step away from declarations about the market toward establishing a legal basis for its creation. The law defines the basic forms and methods for protecting private enterprise and enshrines a policy of rejecting direct state interference in business activity, of maximum freedom for entrepreneurs, of safeguarding commercial secrets, and of liability on the part of state organs for violation of entrepreneurs' rights. The concept of private ownership is "recorded" in law, as it were, for the first time in the republic, and means for protecting the rights of entrepreneurs, a new procedure for registering their activity—a procedure which is very streamlined and designed to record information—the notion of commercial secrets, and many other life-saving institutions for enterprise have been introduced.

Indeed, there must have been a revolution in the thinking of the people's elected representatives who voted in its favor. However, at the press conference held after the completion of the session's work, parliamentary speaker S. Abdildin did not share journalists' hopes that parliament will soon become professional. He stressed that long preparation will have to be made for such a step—say, through the end of 1994, when new elections are to be held.

One more interesting item could have been examined at the session. Back on 31 March this year, the republic Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a resolution which said that the cabinet of ministers had set up 39 concerns, corporations, and other major associations of enterprises, vesting them with full powers in the management of state property, despite the republic law "On the

Development of Competition and the Restriction of Monopoly Activity." It was demanded that parliamentary hearings be held on this score to "sort matters out" with the cabinet of ministers. This, however, did not take place.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Meets With Businessmen for Credit Talks

OW1707183092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The president of the inter-European union for cooperation, the president of the bank of Italy, and the president of the association of Euro-Asian cooperation have come to Bishkek to allocate a credit totalling 50 million dollars to Kyrgyzstan. They expressed their readiness to discuss issues on its usage for concrete projects with the government.

At his meeting with the businessmen President Askar Akayev reported that a republican investment programme granting priority to industry and agriculture and envisaging 30 new construction sites are being developed. The head of the state noted that the greatest portion of the funds granted by the western investors will be channeled not for consumption but for the development of production. Akayev also declared that in the last resort Kyrgyzstan is ready to assure the foreign credits by its gold reserves.

Turkish Interior Minister Arrives in Bishkek

TA1907172592 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1625 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Bishkek, July 19 (AA)—Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said here on Sunday [19 July] Turkey and Kyrgyzstan have a lot give each other.

Speaking to reporters in the Kyrgyz capital, he said among the central Asian republics, Kyrgyzstan is the one which has succeeded the most in its democratization and free market efforts.

Sezgin said he believes his contacts with his Kyrgyz counterpart will be very constructive and an occasion for new cooperation in the field of security.

"I believe that as a result of these contacts we will come to the stage where a security cooperation agreement can be signed to fight against crime," he said.

"We might have been late to set strong foundation for cooperation, but today the conditions are different," he said.

After concluding his contacts in Kyrgyzstan on July 23, Sezgin and accompanying delegation will fly to Turkmenistan.

Akayev Receives Council of Europe Delegation

LD1807174492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek July 17 TASS—The delegation of the Council of Europe, which arrived in Kyrgyzstan to study the possibility of participation of this Central Asian republic in European affairs, was received by President Askar Akayev.

Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Catherine Lalumiere noted the interest in developing relations with the republic.

"People of Kyrgyzstan have long served as a link, a bridge between East and West," President Akayev said. "But today our policy, desires gravitate towards West. We do not accept Islamic fundamentalism. Yes, we need aid. But awareness that far-off Europe supports our democratic transformations gives us strength and we are glad to join in the new world politics."

Asks For Moral Support

OW1707180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan expects Europe to give, in the first place, "moral support for its current reforms and beneficial influence on its developing European democratic traditions" - President Askar Akayev has said today, Friday [17 July], in Bishkek while meeting with a delegation of the European Council (permanent CSCE body). The delegation is led by the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Chetin.

"We have one foot in Europe", explained A. Akeyev, "but our opposition is pulling us towards Islamic states". He thinks that living in the centre of Eurasia the Kyrgyz people share both in the oriental and oxidental mentality.

He said that participation in the European process offers Central Asian countries a chance to build a sound market economy and to form a civic society based on law.

NATO Officers Arrive for Talks

LD1707161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By KYRGYZTAG-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek July 16 TASS—Sharing experience in creating a multinational army is one of the main aims of a visit by a group of top-ranking NATO officers, who arrived in the capital of Kyrgyzstan on Thursday [16 July]. Over four days of their visit, they will familiarise themselves with military policy, Kyrgyzstan's doctrine of national security, visit military units, parliament, and the defense committee.

The visit was organised by the Moscow international centre "peace and accord" and is viewed as a step in formulating the concept of collective security of the CIS.

Official Notes Progress of Constitution

OW1707224592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Next week the members of the Kyrgyz parliament are expected to specially gather to discuss a draft of a new constitution. In response to "IF" [INTERFAX] request the presidential adviser on legal issues Leonid Levitin expresses his point of view on the problem of development of a new basic law.

According to Levitin (and he apparently reflects the point of view of the president), adoption of a new constitution might be postponed for two years.

Levitin explained "the society is in the crisis situation and is not ready for an adequate perception of legal innovations". Having noted that "democratic parties and movements permanently demand a new constitution to replace the old partocrtic constitution", Levitin agreed that "many juridical contradictions arose due to the absence of a new basic law".

Making comments on 2 alternative draft constitutions presented by the party "Erkin Kyrgyzstan", Akayev's adviser said that it is a demonstration of democracy as both variants lay to the ground a parliamentary republic as a form of the future state structure of Kyrgyzstan. Levitin declared that this approach cultivates growth of national self-conscience and we must "welcome it".

Nevertheless the adviser believes that at this stage it is necessary to prevent constitutional fixing of the prevailing role of one of the powerful structures - the legislative as "it would lead to anti-democratic reformations" and would weaken the dynamics of the reforms.

To this effect Levitin, in particular, said: "Now in the situation of post-totalitarism we need a strong state power as a guarantor for implementing the reforms. At present personality of Akayev-of a democratic president-represents a guarantor of progressive transformation in Kyrgyzstan (foreign financial aid is granted "under him"). But today he is present and tomorrow someone else will come. That is why the draft constitution which was presented by the constitutional commission as presidential is built on the principle of aspirations and contradictions though the authorities are working in a balanced regime".

Given the above mentioned, Levitin hopes that if a dictator comes to power the parliament will have a possibility of impeachment and vice a versa if "due to different combinations" the parliament reflects reactionary moods the president can disband it.

Tajikistan

Delegation Visiting Afghanistan Returns

LD1907061192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Yesterday, Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, leading a delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, returned to Dushanbe from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The delegation was in Kabul, the capital of this country. Akbarsho Iskandarov, head of the delegation, handed a congratulatory message from Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev to His Excellency Burhonnodin Rabbani on the occasion of his appointment as president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The delegation met and held talks with members of the government, heads of departments, and scholars. A joint protocol on economic cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan was signed. This covers exploitation of virgin lands, Pyandzh river electrical energy resources, and other important issues.

Officials Satisfied With Results

LD1807190792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1342 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 18 Jul—We met with mutual understanding on the part of the new Kabul authorities and were given the opportunity to satisfy ourselves about the sincere desire of our Afghan brothers to help Tajikistan stabilize the sociopolitical situation in the republic and to help its economic revival, said Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting speaker of the parliament, in an interview to the local KHOVAR INFORMATION AGENCY. He was summing up the results of the official visit by a state and governmental delegation to Afghanistan.

He noted that during the meetings with Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and with leaders of the Islamic Popular Front, agreements were reached on mutual economic cooperation, the joint construction on the border of the two states of major hydropower stations, the expansion of border trade, and the exchange of scientific and cultural cadres.

According to Akbarsho Iskandarov, the Afghan leadership shares the concern over the situation on the border and over the crossing by Tajik citizens to the Afghan banks of the Pyandzh to obtain weapons from the local mujaheddin. This does not further the stabilization of the already complex political situation in Tajikistan.

The parliamentary leader stressed that firm guarantees have been received from Kabul regarding the adoption of immediate concrete measures to disarm its own illegal militarized groupings and to strengthen the border regime. The Afghan leaders informed the Tajik representatives of their resolve to tighten controls on the border so as to stop drug trafficking.

A major result of the visit was the signing of a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Appeal To Halt Afghan Weapon Supplies Noted

LD1707140092 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] News from foreign lands close at hand: A delegation headed by Tajik Premier Mirzoyev has set out for Afghanistan. According to information from the INTERFAX agency, the premier will try to get the authorities in Kabul to agree to help stop the Mujahedin field commanders from handing over weapons to citizens of Tajikistan.

This is an extremely acute problem for the republic where, after the recent bloody events, the situation has basically not returned to normal.

[Aldoshina] In today's interview in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Tajik President Rakhmon Nabiyev stated that there are political leaders in the republic whose vainglorious ambitions are unwinding a new spiral of confrontation. Probably what is meant are the many public movements and organizations which are dissatisfied with the government of national reconciliation. First and foremost, these are the Supreme Soviet deputies from the oblasts and from the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous oblast. They regard all the latest decrees of the president as unconstitutional and have in fact been sabotaging the holding of a routine session of the Supreme Soviet for two months now. In general, the opposition thinks that the present membership of the parliament is not capable of action and cannot bring the republic to national reconciliation. Communists, the clergy, the public, and the government—they are making appeals everywhere to everyone and to each other.

However, appeals are known to resolve little. So, the confrontation with regional, political, religious, and interethnic elements in the republic is continuing.

Nabiyev Determined To Protect Ethnic Minorities

LD2007093992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe July 20 TASS—President of Tajikistan Rakhman Nabiyev announced his firm determination to protect non-Tajik population of the republic from hostile activities of nationalists, to disband unofficial organizations that control activities of large establishments, and ensure their safety with the help of the CIS "blue helmets".

The president addressed an extraordinary joint session of the parliament's Presidium and Cabinet of Ministers on Saturday [18 July] in which representatives of political parties and higher Muslim clergy took part, before giving an interview to ITAR-TASS. Nabiyev demanded from parliamentarians to immediately work out and adopt a package of additional legislative acts guaranteeing the rights of national minorities, since existing laws are ineffective and vague.

The Tajik leader emphasised that the outflow of the non-ethnic population has acquired dangerous proportions. Over the last few months more than 12 thousand men have left the republic, a majority of them qualified specialists. According to him, it is not only harmful to the republic's economy, but to its international prestige as well, and it also destroys people's trust in the leadership to construct a democratic legal state in Tajikistan.

The president's believes that irresponsible statements of some political leaders and the "provocative campaign" certain independent publications and popular television took part in added "fuel to the fire". In this connection, he said that he would do his utmost to protect rights of national minorities.

First of all he intends to put an end to violations of laws at large industrial establishments and construction works of the republic, including at the Rogun hydroelectric power station. Moral and physical terror was unleashed there, resulting in a large scale dismissal of qualified personnel, which has threatened these establishments and construction works with closure, Rakhman Nabiyev said.

In a few days, all these so called "popular fronts" and other illegal formations that control activities of factories and plants stuff will be liquidated, and in accordance with agreements reached by the CIS leaders, "blue helmets of the Commonwealth countries" will take over the task of ensuring the activities of national economy's facilities and protection of the population in such zones of conflicts as areas of Kurgan-Tubinsk province, Nurek, Rogun and Yaban cities, Rakhman Nabiyev emphasised.

The Tajik president pins the hope to find a solution to interethnic relations on the wideranging cooperation treaty between Tajikistan and Russia which is being worked out. "I am an optimist and rely on my people's common sense and traditional Tajik hospitality and cordiality, a majority of which remembers and values people's friendship, and above all, the great Russian people. A handful of extremists would not succeed in destroying this friendship," Rakhman Nabiyev said.

Religious Leader on Politics, Religion

LD1807175392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Khaji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, representative of the people of Tajikistan, the qazi of the republic now answers your questions. We invite you to the direct radio conversation. Here is the program presenter, Usmon Khabib.

[Khabib] Hello dear listeners! You are listening to our direct program. Our guest is esteemed Khaji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, qazi of the Republic of Tajikistan. We would like you to speak to our guest. Esteemed Khaji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, we would like to ask you foremostly about the activities of the spiritual board of Tajikistan. [indistinct passage omitted]

[Turadzhonzoda] Dear fellow countrymen, dear listeners: The basic activity of the spiritual board of the muslims of the Republic of Tajikistan, which was registered as an independent board in 1992, includes administering the religious establishments in the Republic of Tajikistan, protecting the mosques, clergy, the Muslims of the republic, providing education in the Islamic educational establishments for the children of the Muslims of the republic who, during a specific period, did not have Islamic education and could not freely receive Islamic education.

Thank God over the three years we succeeded to have within the framework of the spiritual board one Islamic University and five Islamic schools where more than 800 students are now studying. In the future the number of students will increase. Our main plan, our everyday activity is the creation of a Muslim, an Islamic character. Thank God that today in the republic more than 90 percent of the people are Muslims. It must be stated that this 90 percent of the Muslims don't know much about the reality of Islam, Islamic education, Islamic aims; and most of the Muslims are as they say (?imitation) Muslims. [indistinct passage omitted]

[Khabib] Esteemed Turadzhonzoda, the listeners wish you well and now I would like to put their questions to you. The questions cover a range of topics. There are a number of questions on the situation about which you know and some personal questions about you. [passage omitted] Ghulam Aziz from Kulyab asks whether the spiritual board today gets involved in politics or not.

[Turadzhonzoda] The spiritual board does not get involved in politics because this is not [word indistinct]. The [words indistinct] of Tajikistan does not permit this. The people should be able to differentiate between the involvement in politics from the spiritual board and the involvement by the qazi of the Muslims. As well as being the qazi of the Muslims, I am also a member of parliament. I was elected by 14,00 voters as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet. I am thus obliged to get involved in politics. Every citizen is duty bound to get involved in politics. The spiritual board up to now has not become involved in politics.

[Khabib] [Name indistinct] from Dushanbe writes that [words indistinct] and asks your opinion on the current political situation in the republic.

[Turadzhonzoda] I don't agree with this opinion because there is alot of talk attempting to put the (?blame) for the current situation on Khaydar Sharifzoda and the spiritual board. Nor Khaydar Sharifzoda nor I are [words indistinct]. They are trying to get the spiritual board involved in these political games and to blame the unrests on us. [Sentence indistinct]

The state of affairs today is foremostly associated with the current leadership of the republic, particularly the president of the republic. Even yesterday at a meeting it was stated that the weapons are not being collected [words indistinct]. The person whom they want to lead the collection of the weapons ought to be someone which both groups respect. Such a person is Davlat Khudonazarov. We, all the political parties and the leadership of the republic, the president ought to encourage Davlat Khudonazarov with this great responsibility of collecting the weapons from the people. A great deal of weapons have been collected. [Words indistinct]. They should be taken by force.

[Khabib] Rasul from Kulyab writes: Dear Turzdzhonzoda, it seems from all of your actions that you don't have faith in [name indistinct]. Why do you cooperate with Shodmon Yusufov, who was a member of the Communist Party for many years and even a [word indistinct] first secretary of the Communist Party? If you do succeed will you ever keep him in your company or will you get rid of him?

[Turadzhonda] We in fact do not have any faith in the communists. However, anyone who has detached themselves from their communist belief as a result of [words indistinct] we accept him. [Sentence indistinct]. We the spiritual directorate does not actually intend to take power into our hands. [Words indistinct] We don't intend to take power into our hands. Only through democracy. Real democracy where every citizen is free, his rights protected, where civil rights is protected. Who guarantees this does not make any difference to us. [Words indistinct] [Indistinct passage omitted]

[Khabib] There is another question from Ashurov Khudaynazar from [name indistinct] city. Weapons from the border of Afghanistan are being brought in and it said that they were men from the Kolkhozobad mosques. What is your opinion?

[Turadzhonzoda] Each of our centers has only five or six workers. [Words indistinct], but if the worshippers to the mosque went there we don't take any responsibility for them. I would like to state that the main reason for the people violating the border regime and the law is that the government, in the course of these two months, did not take any measures for collecting the weapons distributed to them under such a complicated situation. For this reason they cannot be controlled, due to these weapons which they have got their hands on. [sentence indistinct]

[Words indistinct] that foreign enemies want the bloodshed to continue until the first state of the Tajiks, which has been formed after 1,000 years, is once again destroyed. I am convinced that our people will not divide their nation and will not believe the claims by Uzbek television. They probably think that our Tajikistan has no government. Uzbekistan is not permitting all the planes from the Republic of Tajikistan to the cities of Uzbekistan.

We have information that Tajik television is not being shown in Uzbekistan. The television of Uzbekistan, however, to this day is being shown in Tajikistan. I believe that relations with neighboring countries should be reciprocal. If Uzbek television is shown for so many hours in Tajikistan, then Tajik television should be shown in Uzbekistan for the same amount of time. I request that Tajik television be immediately shown in Uzbekistan. [indistinct passage omitted]

[Khabib] Dear listeners, we will now start with your questions. Abdullo Sayedzoda from [name indistinct] rayon questions [words indistinct]. Many more questions are coming in. From Konibodom, Dzhalilov Dzhumaboy asks if the clergy of the mosques are selected by the spiritual board or by the (?executive committees) of the oblast.

[Turadzhonzoda] According to the rules of the mosques and the spiritual board, every mosque [words indistinct] the rayon executive committees of the rayons according to existing legislation cannot interfere in the affairs of the mosques. [sentence indistinct]

[Khabib] Aziza Sayeda from Dushanbe asks why you have not resigned for a [word indistinct].

[Turadzhonzoda] All the people of Tajikistan have not requested my resignation. I am a qazi for those people, for those mosques who have supported me by contract with our board. Only those mosques which are affiliated with the spiritual board meet once every five years, or under an extraordinary convening can request my resignation; if they do so I will resign. [indistinct passage omitted]

Through Uzbek television [words indistinct] it is also a problem in Uzbekistan which does not want the democratic processes to develop and the popular forces to succeed here, and that it does not spill over into Uzbekistan. [Words indistinct] don't want a sovereign Tajik state alongside Afghanistan and Iran, who might gradually form close economic and political contacts and will be an obstacle to the political, economic, and military interests of the [words indistinct]. [indistinct passage omitted]

[Khabib] Esteemed listeners, we report to you that the Muslims of Tajikistan are not afraid of an Islamic state. However, some of them are afraid of the fact that in the name of Islam, a group will come to power and will change everything which the communists had done during their rule. What is your opinion? This question is from Afzallov, a resident of Dushanbe.

[Turadzhonzoda] [Words indistinct] First, he has made a few good points. Our Muslim people are not afraid of an Islamic state; this is the majority. I believe that today our society is not ready for an Islamic state, even though the majority of our people are Muslims, about 95 percent. [Words indistinct] Due to this our aim is to strengthen Islam, to bring about full understanding of the Koran and [words indistinct].

Uzbekistan

Council of Europe Officials Hold Talks

TA1907114092 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Okan Aykin report from Uzbekistan]

[Text] Most of the former Soviet republics are using Turkey as a model. Uzbekistan is one these republics. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Council of Europe Secretary General Catherine Lalumiere proceeded from Bishkek to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, where they held some official contacts. They were received by Uzbek President Islam Karimov and conferred with him for some time. Cetin and Lalumiere were also received separately by the Supreme Soviet Chairman Shavkat Yuldashev and Prime Minister Abdulhashim Mutalov. Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov also attended the meetings.

Cetin, current president of the Council of Ministers Committee of Ministers, replied to TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] correspondent Yasar Kefeli's questions in connection with his visit to Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

[Begin recording] [Kefeli] What are your impressions of your official tour?

[Cetin] We are now at the end of our tour covering five republics. This has been an extremely beneficial visit, because Turkey used its presidency in a very useful manner from the viewpoint of relations with these republics. Turkey has significantly contributed to these republics' international integration and to their foreign relations since their independence. This visit, which I conducted with the Council of Europe secretary general, has therefore been very beneficial. It has contributed to the development of relations between these republics and the world, and helped the world, particularly the Council of Europe, to become acquainted with these republics.

[Kefeli] These republics are experiencing a period of transition. What will Turkey's role be in this transition period?

[Cetin] These newly independent states are actually experiencing the inevitable problems of the transition period in the economic, social, and political fields. The world should not ignore them; it should support and aid them. From the beginning, as the first country to recognize these countries, Turkey has extended all possible aid and support to these states and is continuing to do so. During this visit, we observed once again that the leaders of these countries chose Turkey as their model. They view Turkey as a secular, contemporary, and democratic country. We all observed that they chose Turkey as a model from both the political and economic angles. They have many expectations from Turkey, which is trying to meet them as much as possible. It is, however, extremely difficult for Turkey to solve all their problems or meet all their needs. Therefore, I would like to call on the world again. Together, we must all support and help these republics in their transition to democracy and in the resolution of their daily economic problems. [end recording]

In a statement to TRT, Lalumiere said that during her contacts especially in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, she saw that these countries not only expect help from Turkey, but view Turkey as a role model as well. Pointing out that Turkey is a country with a Western and contemporary democracy, Lalumiere noted that no country can play the role Turkey can in this region. She declared that the Council of Europe wants to assist these republics, adding, however, that this role could vary from country to country in accordance with each country's geographical proximity to Europe.

Romanian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

AU1707172592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1522 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/7/1992—As part of the official tour the Romanian minister of foreign affairs is making in Central Asian countries which formerly were Soviet republics, talks were held in Tashkent with Vatif Teshabiev [name as received], First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

Analysis was made of aspects concerning the development of the political and economic relations between the two countries.

In a statement made to the ROMPRES correspondent, Vatif Teshabiev expressed his conviction that the exchange of opinions with the Romanian minister and the common efforts for the development of mutual relations would serve the interests of both countries and peoples.

In his turn Adrian Nastase specified: "During our exchange of opinions we tried to find the means for a direct contact at political and economic level. We should find the areas of mutual interest. It is very necessary to eliminate some wrong perceptions of one about the other. And this cannot be done but by mutual knowledge, by direct dialogue. On the other hand, as far as we could develop our economic relations, they will exercise a certain pressure on the development of other domains of our collaboration. Of course, the political factor is the one which tries to open the doors of the cooperation ways but, probably, in future this ratio will be reversed," the Romanian minister of foreign affairs concluded.

Karimov on Reactions to CIS Forces Proposal

PM1707191092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 92 p 1

[Interview with President I. Karimov by Lev Levin in Tashkent; date not given: "You Cannot Rewrite History"]

[Text] President I. Karimov of Uzbekistan has invariably participated in meetings of CIS leaders, with the exception of the Belovezhskaya Forest meeting. He also headed the republic's delegation at the recent Moscow meeting. In this interview he comments on the results of the talks and discusses the disputes which arose around his new initiatives.

[Levin] Islam Abduganiyevich, let us not exaggerate, but your proposal to create multinational CIS forces caused a "storm," too all appearances, not only among political scientists and journalists, but among the heads of state themselves. What is this—a spur-of-the-moment scheme or an improvisation?

[Karimov] Alma-Ata, Minsk, Kiev, Tashkent—meeting after meeting. Each leader expresses his viewpoint and defends his position, and this is understandable. After independence, each state ultimately pursues its own interests and goals, but there are also common, pan-human values.

Ethnic conflicts, casualties, the growth of crime, divisions in society. And the political leaders get together to talk about global problems. But what about the individual?! Yes, things are tough now. Prices are rising, essential goods and food products are scarce. Of course, all this is temporary. What is worse is that people are beginning to lose faith and give up. And all kinds of "dark powers" take advantage of this. We cannot go on like this. That is why, at the meeting of CIS heads of state, I stated firmly: We need a conflict prevention mechanism. We need a real force capable of preventing the development of bloody events. And only multinational Commonwealth forces can do this. I will be frank: At first the leaders of the independent states responded "cooly" to this proposal. I was therefore obliged to raise the problem insistently and repeatedly.

You understand, when a particular issue is examined at top-level meetings, each side's arguments look convincing. But this approach is not acceptable now. We need to take all the issues together and separate the crucial from the secondary.

[Levin] Let us go back to the President Hotel conference room. Neither Yeltsin, nor Kravchuk, nor Nazarbayev, the leaders of the biggest CIS states, raised this question or departed from the strict conference agenda.

[Karimov] I cannot answer for the leaders of sovereign republics. But this situation cannot go on any longer in the Commonwealth. Let me take you back a few months. If you remember, at that time some of the leaders of sovereign republics were saying: The CIS is a myth, the CIS is an artificially created commonwealth. I was against this approach. You cannot rewrite history. Especially when every chapter is written by several generations of people.

The main thing today is to stop the confrontation and achieve peace. No more bloodshed can be tolerated. After all, the feeling of grief and the desire for vengeance lead ultimately to hatred, and then all precepts are futile.

People, wherever they live—in Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan—need to be sure of one thing: They will be defended, and this responsibility rests with the politicians. Those are the arguments I set forth at the Moscow conference. I will not deny that I am pleased that my insistence on tackling this question met with the support of the leaders of CIS states. Some people might think me stubborn or intransigent. Maybe. My experience of life shows me: Always tell the truth. It may be bitter or tough, but it must be the truth! Maybe many people will not like it. But in time they will not only understand you, they will support you too. Of course, this can be difficult to do. But I will not deviate from my stance in life.

[Levin] As a rule, what takes place behind the closed doors of the conference room where the heads of independent states meet remains a mystery to the reading and viewing public at large. In Moscow a document was signed on the legal status of the CIS Economic Court. What is this, what is it intended to do?

[Karimov] We are scaling fundamentally new, if you like, civilized heights. The Economic Court is called upon to be a tough, dispassionate arbiter. We are not reinventing the wheel. The European Community operates on the same principle.

Government Armed Forces Take National Oath

OW1707202692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The armed forces of Uzbekistan began to take the oath to their people and to the president. The first to take the oath were the fighters of the national guard. Addressing the soldiers at the ceremony of taking the oath in one of the units, the Uzbek Defense Minister Rustam Akhmedov stressed that "the republican armed forces are not characterized by national aspirations; they are international and are to defend the interests of all peoples living in Uzbekistan".

The military oath is being taken in Russian and Uzbek languages and only by those conscripts who were called up this spring. Those servicemen who swore the allegiance to the USSR will not be drawn to a second oath.

Police Evict Opposition Leaders From Hospital

OW1907153792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Press officials of the opposition Birlik movement in Uzbekistan say two of the movement leaders, Adburakhim Pulatov and Muralim Adylov, who arrived for further treatment at one of the hospitals of Tashkent on Saturday morning [18 July] were evicted by a police patrol at about midnight, local time, on the same day. Earlier, the two leaders underwent treatment at a neurosurgical centre in the Uzbek capital following an attempt on their lives on June 29.

Hospital officials refused to accept the two as inpatients saying that if Pulatov and Adylov needed medical help, this could be provided by a district hospital at their place of residence. Later, police had arrived and a senior police officer told Birlik leaders to leave the hospital threatening to force them out if they failed to obey.

Birlik press officials say that Pulatov and Adylov are now hiding in a private flat in Tashkent, which Pulatov believes can at least guarantee his personal safety.

Armenia

President Says Karabakh Areas Must Be Liberated

OW1807183192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has declared that "first we must liberate the lands in Nagorno-Karabakh seized by Azerbaijan, provide safety for their population, and only then talk about the status of that republic". He was speaking at Friday's [17 July] meeting with the working people and administration in the town of Vanadzor.

He argued that the demands of the parliamentary opposition National Union of immediate recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic "were not the right political approach". "It's not yet time for that", he stressed.

In reply to calls by the local branch of the National Union for his resignation the President said he was not going to do so. He was elected by the entire nation and only by its will would he resign.

Russian Envoy to Armenia on Nagorno-Karabakh

OW2007132792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent I. Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is not interested in a large-scale collision between Armenia and Azerbaijan. However such a collision can be averted only by resolving the Karabakh conflict, said Russia's Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin.

Negotiations alone are capable of leading to a mutually acceptable way out of the present situation, he said in an exclusive interview for DP. He states this as an expert in the area of international law, not as an ambassador invested with certain rights and commitments, V. Stupishin noted.

According to him, at the moment it's impossible to say what formula for settling the Karabakh conflict would be acceptable to the conflicting sides. It can be worked out only in a process of negotiations. "It's imperative to begin talks, and with the participation of all the parties concerned, of course".

The expert said he doubts that a solution reached without the participation of one of the parties concerned, even if such a party is not officially recognized, would be "effective". The number of such parties reached 3 when Nagorno-Karabakh proclaimed itself an independent republic. The previous course toward Karabakh's joining Armenia "became a thing of the past". This signifies a new line-up of forces involved in the conflict.

The use of force toward Nagorno-Karabakh is an alternative to negotiations, the expert said. "But it runs counter to the global trend toward democratizing foreign policy which is gaining momentum".

The expert believes that a search for the ways to settle the conflict should be based on the Final Act of the Helsinki Accords both Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed.

"The ten principles of the Final Act are equitable and supplementing one another. Each of them can be considered only as interconnected with the remaining ones, and is not subject to exclusion".

The expert categorically objects to the notion that the principle of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders clashes with the principle that proclaims the right of nations to self-determination.

First of all, the Final Act doesn't proclaim the inviolability of borders as an absolute, since it recognizes the possibility of changing them peacefully. Secondly, the principle of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders spreads only to the area of international relations. "The countries involved in the CSCE pledged not to encroach on each other's borders and territorial integrity".

As for the right of nations to self-determination, this principle doesn't concern international relations, the Russian expert said. It means that "having clearly expressed its will, part of a country's population, ethnically compact, differing from the remaining populace and permanently living in definite territory has the right to secede from that country or maintain confederate or federate relations within it".

To prove his point V. Stupishin referred to a historic precedent: disintegration of the USSR. "The right of nations to self-determination was observed in that process, but the principle of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders was not violated, since the process went on from within".

According to V. Stupishin, one shouldn't disregard the fact that the autonomous regions and ethnic districts within republics of the former USSR were considered ethnic, not administrative, units. Nagorno-Karabakh had the status of autonomous region within the Republic of Azerbaijan. "Why should the territorial integrity of the former Soviet republics be taken into account and that of ethnic units formed under the same law and constitutional system be ignored then?"

The expert doesn't rule out that solution to the Karabakh problem could contribute to the introduction of the principle of limited veto. Under it Stepanakert could veto any decisions taken by Baku which would be in effect in the remaining territory of Azerbaijan.

V. Stupishin believes that at the moment the Azeri authorities, which consent to grant only cultural autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, whose goal is full independence, won't agree to this. "But it must not halt the search for a mutually acceptable and civilized solution to the conflict".

In other words, with civilized approaches it's possible to find new criteria for resolving the Karabakh problem on the basis of contemporary international law and respect for the principles of natural law and moral standards, the expert said.

Yerevan Details Clashes, Rebuts Baku Report

NC1707183092 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now have a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Armenia's border rayons.

First, however, we wish to comment on the reports Baku Radio carried this morning regarding developments on the battlefront. In its newscast today, Baku claimed that the Armenian media reports that Armenian self-defense forces had liberated five towns in the NKR are unfounded, and that Azerbaijan National Army units currently hold more than 50 Armenian residential areas. This is the latest distortion of the facts by Azerbaijan. The truth is that the Armenian self-defense forces have recently launched counterattacks in nearly all the sectors of the battlefront and have liberated five residential areas and the Sarsangsk Hydroelectric Power Plant. They also liberated Getavan, near the Terter River, on 15 July. Initial reports indicate that Armenian freedom fighters entered Chapar and maintained their attack in the direction of (Khapir).

According to information we have received from the NKR Self- Defense Command Headquarters, the Azerbaijan Armed Forces have suffered significant losses, both in men and materiel. Armenian freedom fighters fought for (Khaser) on 16 July. Many Azerbaijani troops were killed or wounded.

Armenian military units launched an attack in the direction of [words indistinct] and Mardakert. Meanwhile, according to information we have received from Martuninskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons, Azerbaijan Armed Forces units are being reinforced along various parts of the border. Armenian freedom fighters succeeded in occupying several strategically important heights in Mardakertskiy Rayon following violent clashes on 16 July. Four enemy tanks were captured and many Azerbaijani troops were killed.

It must be noted that the Azerbaijan National Army hesitates to fight with Armenian units in the open. The enemy is not using armored vehicles as much as it has in the past. This is because Armenian fighters have disabled many of its tanks and armored vehicles. This has gradually reduced Azerbaijan's superiority in military hardware. It is no coincidence that the Azerbaijan National Army now prefers to fight in its positions. They are trying to fortify their positions in the areas they have occupied. We must also note that they have ransacked the towns and large residential areas they have occupied. They have stolen kitchenware from houses and desecrated sacred Armenian shrines and graves. It seems they have forgotten that in so doing they compel the Armenian side to retaliate. These activities do not add to the dignity of the adversaries. Harming our sacred places, especially the graves, is nothing but infamous behavior. It is impossible to describe it in any other way.

Azerbaijan National Army units have fired on several towns in Nagorno-Karabakh's Martuninskiy, Gadrutskiy, Askeranskiy, and other rayons using various types of weapons. Several residential areas were bombarded over the past two days. The Azerbaijani side used aircraft to achieve its objective. Several Su-25 attack aircraft bombed Chldran in Mardakertskiy Rayon on 15 July. There was some damage, and several people were wounded. Chldran is a considerable distance from the military operations zone. Meanwhile, six peaceful citizens were killed when Nakhichevanik was bombarded. Martuni came under Grad rocket fire from Amiranlar on 16 July. One person was killed in the attack. Armenian forces were compelled to open fire in every direction to silence the enemy positions and obstruct their criminal activities.

The situation in the region is rather tense. By maintaining its aggression, Azerbaijan has escalated the confrontation. The people of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] do not intend to relinquish the independence they achieved with the blood of thousands of their kinsmen. The Artsakh Armenians have sworn to maintain their struggle until they liberate their historic land from the aggressor. These brave, hospitable, and freedom-loving people are waging a just struggle that will undoubtedly achieve its objective sooner or later.

The situation the Armenian rayons bordering Azerbaijan is unstable. Exchanges of fire and clashes have taken place. Azerbaijani units fired on the towns in Tavushskiy Rayon and tried to obstruct the harvesting of crops. The Armenian side returned the fire.

Team Leaves for Iran To Discuss Embassy Opening

LD2007123192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Togran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 20 TASS—A group of officials from the Armenian Foreign Ministry left for Tehran to discuss with Iranian authorities the opening of the Armenian Embassy.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Armenia Ahmad Sopani arrived in Yerevan.

Azerbaijan

Baku Radio Updates Clashes, Reinforcements

NC1907191492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has announced the following:

The Armenian occupationists in Agdere Rayon in the Yukhary Karabakh region—who suffered significant casualties during the past few days—have received reinforcements and strengthened their resistance. Violent clashes have taken place near Vaguas over the past two days. Azerbaijan Armed Forces units embarked on new maneuvers on 18 July, intensively shelling with artillery guns the positions held by the Armenian expeditionary force units and inflicting serious casualties.

The intensity of the clashes around Vaguas subsided to a certain extent on 19 July, but fighting is continuing in the area.

Enemy units increased their activities in the southern part of Karabakh. Last night and early this morning, with various types of arms, they fired on Arysh, Khatunbeyli, and Govshatly in Fizulinskiy Rayon and on Suleymanly, Efendiler, and Banazur in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon from the direction of Melikdzhan, Sur, and (Shagat). [Two names indistinct], Elagaly, Shilli, and Akhmedavar were also fired on from Askeran last night.

Exchanges of fire occurred in our republic's border areas yesterday and today. Alibeyli in Tauzskiy Rayon was fired upon on 18 July, and Mutludere in Kedabekskiy Rayon was fired on from Bashkent. Four peaceful residents were wounded, and two Armenian brigands were killed. From 1430 to 1700 on 18 July, artillery guns and Grad rocket launchers were used to fire on Gyulabek and [name indistinct] in Lachinskiy Rayon from Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon and from the enemy-occupied Malkhalef and Mabutly. A local resident was wounded. Our artillery units returned fire and destroyed the enemy firing positions.

The situation in Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons and in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was relatively peaceful last night.

Spokesman: 50 Settlements Retaken Since 12 Jul

TA2007103992 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] It is reported that since 12 July, the Azerbaijani National Army has retaken more than 50 settlements occupied by the Armenians. Kemal Arslan reports from Baku:

The operation started by the Azerbaijani National Army to retake the lands occupied by the Armenians is now in its 40th day. Leyla Yunusova, the spokesman of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, told Turkish Radio and Television in Baku that after losing the settlements they had occupied, the Armenians panicked and are now making unfounded allegations. She said that the Sertenk Dam in the strategically important Akdere [Mardakert] region is fully under Azeri control.

Another fact she stressed was that the Azerbaijani National Army, which is mostly composed of volunteers, underwent training during the past two months, reached a high level of discipline, and became an organized army.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry spokesman said: We do not have aggressive aims. We only want to retake the lands occupied by the Armenians and establish peace.

Armenia Sends Tanks, Guns to Nagorno-Karabakh

OW2007110392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press-service of Azerbaijan's Security Ministry reported to INTERFAX on Monday [20 July] that Armenia had transferred to Nagorno-Karabakh across the Lachin corridor overnight about 40 armored vehicles, T-72 tanks included, self-propelled artillery installations, 12 heavy artillery pieces, and 8 GRAD rocket-launchers.

In the meantime, the Republican Interior Ministry declared, the concentration of manpower and military hardware of Armenian Armed Forces had been recorded from American intelligence gathering satellites. Photographs of the military buildup were demonstrated to participants in the preparatory meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh in Rome recently, said the Foreign Ministry with reference to Azerbaijan's chief delegate to these talks Nadir Mehtiyev.

According to information from Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry, fierce battles have continued in the Agderin (Mardakert) area of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian Forces Control Hydropower Station Zone

LD1907230192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] On the morning of 19 July, the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces resumed operations to suppress Azerbaijani firing points in the occupied Armenian villages in Mardakertskiy Rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh. According to initial information there have been losses on both sides, the Karzbakh news agency reports. Armenian detachments continue to control the zone of the Sarsangskaya Hydroelectric Power Station dam and five Armenian villages in Mardakertskiy Rayon which were previously taken by the Azerbaijani side and recently liberated by the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces. Inhabitants are returning. Last night the rayon center of Askeran was subjected to heavy shelling from Grad launchers in Agdam. The Armenian self-defense forces opened fire in response, reports the Karabakh news agency.

Government To Sign Border Agreement With Russia

LD1907044892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Azerbaijan and Russia intend to conclude a border agreement. It will include the terms and status of Russian and CIS Armed Forces on Azerbaijani territory. According to TURAN News Agency, this was revealed by the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov. According to him, the northern borders of Azerbaijan might not have to be closed [zakryt] after all. On the contrary, it is the southern borders of the republic that will have to be strengthened. In connection with this, a view has been expressed in Baku that Azerbaijan will approve signing the treaty on collective security, which was concluded in Tashkent by six countries of the CIS at the beginning of May. As is known, Baku officially denied previously there was a possibility such a treaty could be signed.

Elchibey on Economic Goals, War in Karabakh

OW1707182492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Popular Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] celebrates its third anniversary on July 16. The Azeri President and the chairman of this organization addressed a festive session devoted to this occasion on Thursday [16 July].

Stressing an organizing role of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan in national-liberating movement in the republic, the head of the state said that a number of prominent political leaders of world significance began their work in this organization. Speaking on the first results of his presidency, Elchibey noted that the main achievement of the new leadership is "a stoppage of recession in many spheres of life". But at present he considers that the main problems to be solved are the economic crisis, the war in Karabakh and on the Armenian border.

The President noted that collective membership of several parties, their functioning as independent social-political organizations is quite possible in the framework of the PFA. So far processes of departization are being developed in the PFA and Elchibey considers that non-party members of the PFA must constitute its backbone.

Elchibey also spoke on the new national currency - manat. According to Elchibey, "it is ready and will be introduced simultaneously with the Russian ruble". The President underlined that the at first the working people will receive their wages partially in rubles and partially in manats: "we have envisaged this in order to ease the deficit of cash". Elchibey said that the new leadership intends to stabilize the economic situation in Azerbaijan in the near 4-5 months with the help of economic reforms, to stop the recession of production, to solve the food problems. "After that we shall conduct parliamentary elections", noted President Elchibey.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The national bank of Azerbaijan told "IF" that the first portion of the national currency "manat" was printed in France by one of the French firms but its name is unknown yet. About 4 million dollars were spent to print the new currency of 1 to 250 manats' denomination. Images of heroes of Turkic epos, famous Azeri composers and great poets are on the new banknotes. Primarily one manat is to be equal to 10 rubles. A representative of the bank believes that the introduction of Azeri own currency is a preventive measure caused by an anticipated introduction of currency by Russia and it will help to satisfy the need of the population in cash. According to the bank experts, the introduction of new currency faces a problem of convertibility. To solve it, the state gold reserve must constitute 26 tons of gold or it must be assured by precious natural resources. In particular, about 2 million tons of oil are expected to be transferred to the bank in the near future.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Peace Force, Sovereignty

OW1707182692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As has already been reported, the Chairman of the State Council, Eduard Shevardnadze, has published an address to the nation in connection with the decision to send into the Tskhinvali region a joint peace-keeping force consisting of Georgian, Russian and Ossetian units.

This in no way means that the Georgian-Ossetian conflict is becoming internationalized, Shevardnadze says in his address. It was a deliberate decision, based on an agreement reached at the summit at Dagomys, to pool the efforts of the two states to put an end to the senseless bloodshed. "As we know," he goes on, "the negotiations in Tskhinvali and Kazbegi yielded no results. For this reason we could not ignore the Russian factor in our efforts."

"We could have gone another way, of course, asking the UN and European security structures to separate the belligerents. But I know from personal experience that it would have taken months to get anywhere this way."

Explaining the reasons for the decision, Shevardnadze says: "Tension had reached its peak. In six weeks, the Georgian National Guard Corps alone lost 55 excellent young fighters. Many police officers, childern, women, and old people were also killed." He also mentions the tragedy at Gori, in which "the Ossetians suffered much greater losses. This is painful for our country, for those killed were Georgian citizens."

There can be not a shade of doubt, he emphasized that "the war unleashed by Georgian political intrigue seekers and Ossetian extremists must be stopped."

"I am convinced," he continues, "that the present and future generations will never forgive these warmongers for having sacrificed the wellbeing of the land of the Georgian and Ossetian peoples for their own selfish interests and ambitions."

Shevardnadze stresses Russian President Boris Yeltsin's constructive contribution to the settlement of the conflict. "The decision to send a peace-keeping force into the conflict zone will be followed by a complex of other measures to achieve and maintain peace. Supervisory commissions have been formed having 40 observation posts. The zone will be patrolled by helicopters equipped with electronic devices which would spot ceasefire violations. A joint information center has been set up to send out objective reports all over the world."

Shevardnadze promises that the peace-keeping force in Tskhinvali will not be increased in numerical strength, and thus the national sovereignty of Georgia will not be threatened. He points out that the Russian contingent within the force is much smaller in size than the helicopter and engineer regiments withdrawn from Georgia. Moreover, according to his agreement with Yeltsin, the presence of the force in Georgia is temporary. As soon as its mission is over, it will leave Georgia "on our demand." "I hope the population will be warm and friendly towards the force."

"Successful steps to settle the conflict based on the plan approved would mean that Georgia had made a major contribution to the solution of one of today's most complicated problems." Shevardnadze expresses the hope that "these efforts will not remain unnoticed in the rest of the world," and that "Georgia, which has so persistently been seeking to resolve any kind of conflict by peaceful means, will cause more than political and moral commiseration. There will be guarantees of economic and financial assistance to it."

Defends Peacekeeping Force Accord

PM1707143592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by journalist Mikhail Dzhindzhikhashvili: "E. Shevardnadze Takes Responsibility"]

[Text] Tbilisi—"I take full responsibility for the decision...." Eduard Shevardnadze made this statement at a republic State Council session, commenting on the introduction of the tripartite—Georgia, Ossetia, and Russia—peacekeeping force into the 15-km security zone established in the Tskhinvali region.

The Georgian leader stressed that the initiative was taken fully in accordance with the Dagomys accords, whereby he and Russian President Boris Yeltsin decided that, if the cease-fire agreement was not observed, joint military formations would be introduced into the conflict zone. Concerning the length of the peacemaking formations' stay in the "security corridor," E. Shevardnadze said that two-month contracts had been concluded with the servicemen. Each of them would get between 8,000 and 10,000 rubles for that period. Each contingent comprises 200 men.

In response to his opponents, in particular Professor Nodar Natadze, leader of the Georgian People's Front, who called the introduction of another state's servicemen into Georgian territory a big mistake, Eduard Shevardnadze said that in view of the withdrawal of the two Russian regiments—the helicopter troops and the engineers—from Tskhinvali fewer servicemen from Russia will be introduced into the conflict zone than have been withdrawn.

Says Russia Ready To Restore Tskhinvali

OW1807182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has expressed readiness by Russia's government to take part in restoring the economy and bringing life back to normal in the Tskhinvali region devastated by the three-year-long war. That was divulged at Saturday's [18 July] meeting of the Georgian State Council by its chairman Eduard Shevardnadze.

E. Shevardnadze informed the council of his Friday's [17 July] telephone talk with the Russian President. "We agreed that next Monday or Tuesday our Premier Genghiz Sigua will meet in Moscow with him - Yeltsin - and members of the government to discuss Russia's concrete programme for coping with the consequences of the conflict".

That could be done, he explained, by giving Georgia credits or material and technical resources for a gradual return of refugees home. The funds will be allocated from the centre for Georgia to administer and distribute them.

Urges Using Russian Troops for Railways

OW1807191392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in some areas of Western Georgia remains extremely tense - Eduard Shevardnadze said at yesterday's meeting of Georgia's State Council. The danger is worst along the railways where armed bands sometimes followed by the local population attack freight trains.

That has led E. Shevardnadze to suggest that the Russian troops deployed in Georgia should be asked to help provide safety on rail.

The State Council has failed to take a decision on the matter. Its members think that to take such a step they need to consult the Georgian National Guard and the local population.

Situation Reportedly Stabilizing in S. Ossetia

LD1807090892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 18 TASS—More and more encouraging reports are coming from the area of Tskhinvali where a 1,500-strong contingent of the mixed peace-keeping forces of Russia, Georgia and Ossetia was moved. They show that the situation is stabilising there. This also follows from today's information of the South Ossetian parliament and reports of the North Ossetian security ministry. Observers did not register shooting or local armed conflicts at the approaches to Tskhinvali, the populated localities of the Tskhinvali and Znaur districts and on the border with the Gori district last night.

Long-awaited peace has at last come to South Ossetia, which is supported so far by the mixed peace-keeping force, chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers Oleg Teziyev told ITAR-TASS. Observation posts are located along the whole of the perimeter of the disengagement corridor and in the populated localities within the 25-kilometer zone around Tskhinvali. They registered the withdrawal of the Georgian military hardware and guard units from the Tskhinvali area and other districts in the direction of Gori. The Ossetian side also pulled out its armed units and military hardware from the conflict zone.

At the same time, the observation posts perform the functions of rapid-deployment forces. Every post turns into a fortress within 30 minutes after an alarm signal. The peace-keeping troops will take tough measures against those who violate a ceasefire: fire positions will be immediately suppressed.

In the opinion of Oleg Teziyev, the peace-keeping process in South Ossetia is irreversible. Now the most important task is to restore all economic structures in the region, resume gas, electricity and water supply, restore and unblock roads, so that refugees can return home, teziyev said.

The information has just come that the South Ossetian government sent an appeal to refugees who are now in North Ossetia and other regions. It says that the arrival of the joint peace-keeping force in the Tskhinvali area created real conditions for the return home of refugees.

According to the information coming from Tbilisi, a state commission for the restoration of the South Ossetian economy and the return of refugees was set up on the decision of the Georgian State Council. According to preliminary estimates, this will require about five billion roubles. Georgia is pinning hopes on the assistance of Russia and other countries. The North Ossetian Interior Ministry received a report today that several more buses with refugees left Vladikavkaz for South Ossetia.

Kidnapped Vice Premier Held in Abkhaziya

OW1807131392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1234 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has been told by Georgia's Interior Minister Roman Gventadze that according to his information the recently abducted Deputy-Premier Sandro Kavsadze is kept in the town of Gali, Abkhaziya. Kavsadze's life, it seems, is not threatened.

[In a related report received via Tokyo KYODO at 1234 GMT on 18 July, INTERFAX reports: "The kidnappers of Georgian Vice-Premier Sandro Kavsadze released yesterday [17 July] his driver who had also been kept hostage—as INTERFAX has been informed at the Georgian Interior Ministry."]

Estonia

Russian Supreme Soviet Resolution Criticized

LD1807181992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Ministry regards the resolution of the Russian Supreme Soviet of 17 July and the threat contained in it to adopt economic sanctions against the Republic of Estonia as an attempt to exacerbate the relations of the two states before the next round of negotiations. It views the resolution as an attempt to negotiate from a position of strength, says a statement by the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

This statement by the Estonian Foreign Ministry is a reply to the resolution of the Russian parliament on human rights in Estonia which speaks of the alleged gross violation of human rights in the Baltic states. The statement by the Estonian Foreign Ministry says that the Estonian Constitution corresponds to international law and ensures universally adopted human rights for all residents of the republic.

The Estonian citizenship law is one of the most liberal in Europe. Estonia grants the right to obtain citizenship to those who have settled during the Soviet occupation. This corresponds to the treaty on interstate relations between Estonia and Russia, says the document.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry states that Russia continues to exert military and political pressure on a sovereign Baltic republic and destabilizes the situation in the Baltic region.

'Weakened' Russia on Border Issue Noted

OW1807212892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1527 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A note of the Russian Foreign Ministry on border issue has clearly weakened the Russian positions at negotiations with Estonia as until now there were no talks on territorial claims in respect to any party", an adviser of the Estonian Foreign Ministry Ago Tiiman told "BF" [BALTFAX].

According to the note distributed on Friday [17 July], the Russian Foreign Ministry assesses Article 122 of the new Estonian constitution as "presentation of territorial claims to Russian Federation". This article states that the Estonian border is being established according to the Tartu peaceful treaty dated 1920 and to other international agreements on borders.

According to Tiiman, territorial claims can be presented only after both parties define the line of the state border. Until now the Russian delegation at the negotiations recognized that the present Estonian-Russian border is a state but not an administrative border. "Actually this note of the Russian Foreign Ministry means that Moscow has territorial claims to Estonia", stressed Tiiman.

Talks With Russia To Begin on 20 Jul

OW1807212792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1527 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The expert groups of the Russian and Estonian delegations at interstate negotiations are to begin their work on Monday, July 20 in Lohusalu (near Tallinn). The delegations proper are expected to meet there on July 22-23.

An adviser of the Estonian Foreign Ministry Ago Tiiman told "BF" [BALTFAX] that all the four expert groups will work in Lohusalu: on military, border, economic, and humanitarian-legal issues. Speaking on the next round of negotiations scheduled to begin on Wednesday [22 July], he made a supposition that the Russian delegation will especially sharply conduct discussions on citizenship issues because of the resolution "On Human Rights in Estonia" adopted by the Russian parliament.

A joint working group is also to begin its work on Monday which is to solve an issue on transferring the former Soviet frontier posts to the Estonian frontier guards. The leader of the Estonian group, the Chief director of Department of Frontier Guard Andrus Eevel told "BF" that Tallinn proposed to the Russian frontier guards "to hand over" the guarding of the Estonian northern and western borders by August 1 this year and to withdraw the military personnel (about 1500 people) before the beginning of the next year.

Crossing Fee Introduced on Russian Border

LD1807162992 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Those who will have to travel to Russia through the Estonian border town of Narva will have to pay R. [ruble] 25 for entry permits beginning from 20 July, the Estonian border commissar in Narva told BALTIC NEWS SERVICE today. Officials in Russia [words indistinct] have notified Estonian border guards of (?the respective) decision by Leningrad regional authority. Exempt from the permit (?fee) requirement are residents of the regions close to the border as well as those having the right to cross the border under special regulations. [indistinct passage omitted]

Alliance Designates Ruutel to Presidential Post

OW1807000792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1750 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian election alliance "Kindel Kodu" - a coalescence of the Coalition Party and the Agricultural

Union - has designated Arnold Ruutel (chairman of Estonia's Supreme Council) to the post of the Estonian president.

The statement circulated by the alliance this Friday [17 July] characterizes Mr Ruutel as "a stolid, restrained and determined statesman who has made a great contribution to the development of the Estonian agriculture".

"Kindel Kodu" calls on the citizens of the republic to take part in the signature collection effort needed for Mr Ruutel's official nomination to the presidential office.

Further on Attack on Russian Soldiers

OW1907144792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1406 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview for BF [BALTFAX] Andrus Oovel, chief of Estonia's border protection department, has dismissed the Russian military's explanation of last Tuesday's [14 July] incident in Vihterpalu given to an Estonian youth newspaper.

There, in an area of forest fires, an exchange of fire occurred between Estonian frontier guards and Russian servicemen. A Russian officer was wounded.

As Lieutenant Grom told the paper, armed men tried to stop the Russian servicemen's car. They were taken for fighters from the Estonian organization "Kaitseliit" who are known for their attacks on the military. The car with Russian servicemen turned to leave the place at once, but was fired at, Lt. Grom said.

However A. Oovel asserts that the Russian military were the first to open fire on Estonian frontier guards.

Movement Calls For Non-Citizen Unity

OW1707140992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1333 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia supported by the municipalities of Narva and Sillamae circulated an appeal this Thursday [16 July] addressed to all the permanent residents of the republic without citizenship with a call to join their forces for the purpose of upholding their interests.

"The present day situation in the Estonian Republic denies most of its residents the right to be represented in the future parliament, therefore uphold there interests," the appeal reads.

The Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia calls on all the organizations which unite or represent the non-citizens of the Estonian Republic to take part in the "round table" scheduled, tentatively, for July 25-26.

Latvia

Latvian Rublis Replaces Russian Ruble

LD2007104192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Ryabov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The Latvian roublis [rublis] has replaced the Russian one in the Baltic Republic of Latvia on Monday [20 July], thus initiating a switch to a genuine national currency.

The roublis-rouble exchange rate is 1:1, and the new currency does not change the system of settlements between the banks of Russia and Latvia, Nikolay Ivanov, adviser to the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, told TASS. The Russian rouble can be bought, sold, exchanged in Latvia and local enterprises can open rouble accounts, he added.

The Central Bank of Russia and the Bank of Latvia agreed to exchange three billion rouble credits to facilitate settlements between enterprises.

The roublis is not a national currency in the full meaning of the word, Ivanov said. It marks the first stage of Latvian money reform and will be replaced by the national currency—lat—in future, he explained.

World Bank Admission in Autumn Not Favorable

LD1807184392 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] In order to meet the admission requirements to the World Bank, Latvia has to improve its credit policy, create a uniform budget of both interior and foreign trade, as well as secure the procedure of the repayment of foreign credits.

Latvia is scheduled to join the World Bank this autumn although the attitude of the World Bank toward this development is not too favorable, as representative of the Latvian Ministry of Finance, [name indistinct] has said in a press conference according to the daily (?"LIENA").

The amount of the rehabilitation credit extended to Latvia by the World Bank is comparatively small—only 40 million United States dollars. It should be spent for health service, agriculture and energy resources. The actual sum necessary for the restoration of Latvian economy according to Latvian experts is more than 13.2 billion US dollars.

According to a Latvian Government resolution all information about foreign credit agreements should be submitted to the Ministry of Finances. In a few cases this regulation has been violated by several organizations, such as Latvian embassy in the United States, the Latvian Ministry of Agriculture and others that should have first applied to the Government for approval. To improve the situation and to meet the World Bank requirements that were mentioned above the Latvian Government is preparing another regulation on foreign credits.

Godmanis, French Minister Discuss Credits

LD1807172592 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The delegation from the Republic of Latvia led by Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis is continuing its visit to France. In Paris Ivars Godmanis met French Minister of Finance and Economics Michel Sapin. The possibility was discussed of allotting credits to Latvia for the purchase in France of agricultural products, especially grain. France is one of the few countries in Europe that at the moment is enjoying relatively good grain harvests.

Concerning agricultural problems, Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, Minister of Agriculture Dainis Gegers, and Minister of Foreign Trade Edgars Zausajevs also spoke at a meeting with the leaders of the GM Fund. It was agreed that this autumn the fund will send a group of experts to Latvia to assess the situation in various branches of agriculture and compile a development program for Latvian agriculture. The fund is linked with those French banks which are prepared to finance agricultural development programs in the countries of eastern Europe.

Tomorrow the Latvian delegation will go to Brussels to meet representatives of the European Community and discuss the question of grain supplies to Latvia because of the possible crop failure.

Adazi Fire Discussed With Russian Officials

LD1807043492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] This morning representatives of the Northwestern Group of Russian Forces visited Minister of State Janis Dinevics at his request to present information on the causes of the fires that broke out on the Adazi range and on measures to extinguish them.

The military claim that the Russian soldiers are not to blame for the outbreak of the fires and that some 180-220 men, working in shifts, were involved in extinguishing them. They made use of two tanks, two self-propelled guns, and fire-fighting equipment.

At the same time, Latvian state institutions and services are in possession of evidence that the Adazi garrison has until now, taken almost no part in extinguishing the fires on the range, which it uses.

After a half-hour exchange of views, both sides agreed to meet again on Monday 20 July, when the Army representatives will be able to present documentary confirmation of their claims and report on the results of the preliminary investigation. According to the Russian Army's figures, over 3,300 hectares have been burnt out on the range.

Talks With European Parliament Viewed

LD1707222892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] From 7 to 10 July, the first interparliamentary meeting between the European Parliament and the Baltic states took place in the French city of Strasbourg and was attended by a delegation of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, headed by Deputy Ivars Krastins. Today a news conference with the delegation took place at the Supreme Council.

During all the meetings we underlined again that as long as there are former Soviet military forces in Latvia, we will not be able to fully solve either social or economic problems. We expect understanding of the situation from the European Parliament and the stimulation of activity by the governments of European states in the question of the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Baltic states. This was said at the news conference by delegation leader Ivars Krastins, who reported on the work of the Latvian delegation. Although at the moment European politicians' attention is fixed mainly on the war in Yugoslavia and the Karabakh conflict, interest in the Baltic states is still quite great.

The delegation had a number of interesting meetings with political groups represented in the European Parliament. It is expected that the European Parliament will set up a fund for emergency aid for the Baltic states to provide financial and material assistance to the Baltic states in the difficult economic circumstances during this year's winter. However, as Janis Vaivads, a member of the delegation and the head of the Satversme Constitution faction said, the European Parliament is also aware that the slowdown of the reform process is possible in the Baltic states during the economic crisis. There will be no place for us in the unified Europe, which is also getting on with great difficulties after the Maastricht treaty, for at least ten years, the leader of Satversme said.

All the members of the delegation were unanimous that European politicians should be continuously informed about the Baltic states' problems, because, as Ivars Krastins said, sometimes we suffer from megalomania—everyone already knows very much about our problems. At the same time, however, we met people who think Riga is a city on the Black Sea.

The delegation was also acquainted with the functioning of the departments of the European Parliament, as well as with its cooperation with other European institutions.

Transport Troops Take Oath of Allegiance

LD1907083592 Riga Radio Riga International in English 1730 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Approximately 130 soldiers of a Latvian transport battalion have given a oath of allegiance today at the

Suzi Army unit. Participating was the Latvian Defense Minister Mr. Talavs Jundzis, the commander in chief of the Latvian Defense Forces. This battalion has been made up as a mobile unit for emergency tasks. The soldiers of the battalion have already participated in the fire fighting effort to forest fires in Latvia [as heard] these last two weeks.

Lithuania

Abishala To Be Nominated for Prime Minister

LD1907201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1959 GMT 19 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius July 19 TASS—Aleksandras Abishala, a 37-year old deputy of the Supreme Soviet, currently a minister without a portfolio, will be officially nominated a candidate for the post of Lithuanian prime minister, speaker of Lithuanian Parliament Vitautas Landsbergis told the republican TV on Sunday [19 July].

Abishala, a master of physics and mathematics, is expected to hold a meeting with representatives of parliamentary factions on July 20th to discuss the candidacy.

Customs, Police Officers Killed in Medininkai

OW1707143992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1333 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head investigator of the Criminal Investigation Department at the Lithuanian General Procurator's Office, Mr Algimantas Astaska, maintains that the investigation of the tragedy at the vil. [village] Medininkai could only be completed with the assistance of his Russian colleagues. If Russia and Lithuania do not sign a cooperation agreement in this area, any attempts to find the criminals would be unproductive.

On July 31, 1991, seven customs officers and policemen were shot to death at the Lithuanian border guard station at Medininkai. One of the victims, Tomas Sernas, who was seriously wounded in the carnage, has survived. He is undergoing a course of medical treatment. The General Procurator's officials suspect Riga's OMON [special purpose militia detachment] (riot police detachment) of perpetrating this crime.

In an interview to the "RESPUBLIKA" daily paper, Mr Astaska revealed some new evidence re the events at Medininkai. In particular, the paper carries the pictures of the photo-robots of seven suspects involved in the crime. In the words of the investigator, he obtained irrefutable evidence that the commander of Riga's OMON, Ceslovas Mlynik, and his deputy, Sergei Parfenov, had been issued silencers and special ammunition at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs store house in Vilnus prior to the incident.

Mr Astaska also remarked that in the course of the investigation he found a number of witnesses of the assault at the border guard station.

Notwithstanding that, despite a multitude of affidavits and a great number of witnesses, the Procurator's Office has not come up with any concrete accusations of the Riga OMON.

Further on 'Medininkai Massacre'

LD1807183292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Algis Astaska, chief investigator of the Lithuanian General Prosecutor's Office, has stated that if the Russian Prosecutor's Office agrees to provide the necessary help the Medininkai case will finally be cleared up. According to Mr. Astaska, the murderers of the seven Lithuanian customs and police officials on the night of 31 July, 1991, at the customs control post of Medininkai will go on trial only in case Lithuania and Russia sign an agreement on judicial cooperation.

All seven customs and police officials were shot in the back of the head after being forced to lie down on the floor of the checkpoint's cabin on the Lithuanian-Byelarusian border. It has now been proved that the Soviet interior special task units known as the Black Berets, stationed in Vilnius and Riga, had participated in the Medininkai massacre. The Black Berets from Vilnius and Riga had fought against the Baltic independence right up to the end of August and their activities had been stopped only by the defeat of the August coup in Moscow.

Mr. Astaska stressed that the anti-state activities of the Black Berets were directed and coordinated by the Soviet Interior Ministry's Lt.-Col. Nikolay Goncharenko, who several days before the Madininkai execution had been there and had threatened the Lithuanian customs officials. Besides, added Mr. Astaska, witnesses of the massacre have already come out, though at first there seemed to be no eye-witnesses to the murder. One of the customs officials, Tomas Sernas, has also remained alive after being shot point blank in the back of the head.

Landsbergis on Relations With Russia

LD1807135592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Statement by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, followed by questions and answers session at news conference in Supreme Council building, Vilnius, on 16 July—recorded]

[Text] [Landsbergis] Reports are reaching us about the debate in the Russian parliament on an issue which had been raised, namely the so-called human rights problem in the neighboring states, in this case in the Baltic states, and the information received about how these issues are worded. Therefore, it seems to me that some comment should be made here before comments are made by our relevant commissions or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Judging from what we know from mass media reports, it looks as though this reflects a general strengthening of the reactionary forces in the parliament of the Russian Federation. A positive concept can also be seen in this debate, although expressed in some peculiar manner: while making reproaches for failing to adhere to the timetable of the troops withdrawal, perhaps in this way the intention to adhere to the timetable of the troops withdrawal is expressed. Here we only can say "and God willing".

At the moment there is only one timetable for the withdrawal of the troops, the one which has been set up and proposed by the Republic of Lithuania, by our official state delegation. It envisages the withdrawal of the troops during the period of several months, even somewhat earlier than the end of the current year, or in any case by the end of this year, namely by calculating the possibilities of the railways and other means of transport.

Deputy Podoprigora expressed his concern about this in his report. We will certainly adhere to this timetable, however, we do not see the start of its implementation, and it is precisely this matter that the Russian parliament could be concerned with. The principled agreements which had been made earlier are well known, namely the top priority is the withdrawal of Division 107 from Vilnius, with which the official withdrawal of the Russian troops should start. As you know, the start of the withdrawal was agreed upon in February, and February 1992 at that. We are still awaiting the start of the withdrawal.

There are also other strange points in this debate, and namely that the interrepublic relations committee of the Russian Federation started interfering in the sphere of foreign relations. This can be interpreted as some sort of misunderstanding or failure in dividing the prerogatives, or this can be seen as a remnant of the old imperial thinking.

Concerning human rights in Russia as well as in other foreign states, we could make a great number of remarks. However, we are not going to discuss this in the parliament and to use it to make a pressure on some of our neighbors. Our concept of foreign policy is absolutely different.

It sounds very strange when the chairman of the interrepublic relations committee of the Russian Federation urges that firm measures be taken against other states, and even proposes to denounce—of course in this case it was not him, it was one of the deputies—to denounce the treaties, which would raise the issue of Russia's reliability as a partner and in general, it would be a strange and dangerous tendency towards Russia becoming isolated once again, at a time when the Russian president is making efforts to pursue an open policy and to normalize relations with the outside world.

Statements of this nature, about which we have knowledge, are a clear case of raising tension in interstate relations. At the same time, others are blamed for increasing tension. This is an old tested means and an old formula: he who throws the punches is also the one who howls. We can only hope that the direction of the activity chosen by this committee will not get the support either in the Russian parliament or from the Russian leadership.

[Moderator] Thank you, esteemed chairman. Now esteemed colleagues, if you have any questions in connection with this statement, you may ask.

[Grineviciute] The daily RESPUBLIKA, Grineviciute. Mr. Chairman, could you tell us what your prognosis is concerning the possible future of such an aggressive Russian policy. Do you think that Russia could return to the policy of 1940 and if so, what would the reaction of the West be? You have probably already sounded this.

[Landsbergis] I said right at the beginning what I see in such a debate and such (?pretensions). This is a tendency of the reactionary forces gaining strength in the Russian parliament. This could be noticed earlier also, and now efforts are being made to create a conflicting situation with the neighboring states. The policy of 1940 was pursued by the Stalinist Soviet Union and not Russia. The difference here is very great. However, some comparisons are made which perhaps are conditioned by our painful historical experience and our inevitable cautiousness. However, I think it goes without saying what we should be concerned about and that is internal changes in Russia and changes in the government toward such a reactionary and imperialistic direction.